

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER.

THE SPEECHES at last Lord Mayor's dinner in London were below average. We will give a few extracts from the Premier's speech. Alluding to the Berlin Treaty Lord Beaconsfield said:

At this moment, notwithstanding the reiterated prophecies to the contrary, there is not, I believe, a single Russian soldier in the dominions of the Sultan. (Cheers.) The Emperor of Russia has fulfilled his engagements with dignity and honour (Lord cheers), and is at this moment cordially co-operating with this country and the other Powers of Europe in a policy the object of which is to secure and maintain the general peace (Cheers.) It is sometimes said that the other belligerent has not been so faithful in the performance of his engagements and that we have not through his means yet realized the reform of the mal-administration of his provinces which was promised. My Lord, I think it would be but just—I will not speak of generosity—were we to remember that only a few days have elapsed since his dominions were freed from the presence of the invader (hear, hear,) and that during the interval that has elapsed since the signature of the treaty the Sultan, in the re-settlement of his empire has had to deal with a greater number of difficult arrangements than probably ever fell in the same space of time to the lot of any monarch. (Cheers.)

LORD BEACONSFIELD then passed on to the Afghan War:

My Lord Mayor, you have reminded me that it was to the City of London that I first announced the determination of Her Majesty's Government to secure for our Indian Empire an adequate and scientific frontier. (Cheers.) I now have the gratification of reminding the City of London that that object has been accomplished and achieved (cheers) with a precision of plan and a rapidity of execution not easily equalled in the annals of statesmanship and war. (Loud cheers.)

THE PREMIER thus alluded to the Zulu war:

During that war there have certainly been incidents of a kind which have much distressed the public mind of this country; but this I can say without fear of contradiction, that not for a moment has there been shown any want of that energy and those quick and ample resources which are becoming in a race who have resolved to maintain the Empire which they are proud of having created (cheers); and my Lord Mayor I think you have not indulged in vain expectations, if you believe that in a very short time we shall hear of a satisfactory settlement of every question connected with our dominions in Southern Africa. (Cheers.)

IN THE SAME SPEECH Lord Beaconsfield touched upon commercial depression and agricultural distress. The first his Lordship attributed to over-speculation and the cure for the evil he said "is time and the beneficence of Providence;" with regard to the second His Lordship adverted to some remarks of Lord Hartington on the tenure of land, and said:

My opinion is there is no tenure of land which can be devised except on the conditions that it shall furnish three incomes from the soil. Now I will compare the English system of agriculture, which we are informed by Lord Hartington has failed in consequence of its attempting to support three classes of the community. I will compare it for a moment with that peasant proprietorship which is always held up to us by theoretical philosophers as a state of things we should emulate and endeavour to attain to. Look at the peasant proprietor. The peasant buys a farm 10, 15, or 20 acres, and pays for it out of his savings previously invested in the public funds of his country, or as is often the case, with money borrowed from a banker in his neighbourhood. The interest paid to the banker or that which represents what the peasant derived from his previous investment, is the first income from the soil, and may be said to represent rent. Then the peasant proprietor has to stock his farm and to supply the machinery which is to cultivate the soil. He has to buy if not a plough many spades, harrows and other instruments; he has to build a cart, purchase a horse whose manure is necessary for the due cultivation of his soil; he has to raise some building however modest a barn, at least a shed. All this floating capital and its wear and tear demand and receive the second income from the soil and represent the farmer's return. Having purchased his farm and then stocked it the peasant proprietor and probably his sons, proceed to cultivate the soil and during their labours they must be fed and clothed and nurtured and lodged and that is an income which in this country we should call wages. But it is the third income which the land is obliged to produce under the tenure of peasant proprietorship. (Cheers.) I wish it then, to be impressed on the sense of this nation that the three incomes which land must, under any circumstances produce are in England distributed among three classes and on the land where peasant proprietorship prevails they are devoted only to one class. The number and variety of classes in England dependent on land are sources of our strength. They have given us the proprietors of the soil, the constructors of our liberty in a great degree, and the best security for local government; they have given us the farmers who cultivate and improve their estate, and lastly, the agricultural peasant, whose lot is deplored by those not acquainted with it, but who has during the last 40 years made more continuous progress than any other class in Her Majesty's dominions. (Cheers.)

This is certainly a very ingenious mode of defending the landed system of England.

MODERN CIVILIZATION is extending to Siam. It is stated that the Siamese Government has decided to establish telegraphic connection with the great main lines leading to Singapore and Calcutta, by the construction of the long contemplated line to Tavoy. If the work is pushed forward with vigour, it is not

unreasonable to hope that Bangkok may be in communication with London before the close of the year.

WEATHER reports from all parts of the Punjab are at last satisfactory, and have relieved the great anxiety which had been felt with regard to the autumn crops in the southern districts. The rainfall in Hissar, amounting to six inches during the past week, has been very general over the part of the province from which such bad reports have been hitherto received of crops drying up, cattle dying for want of fodder, and emigration of the inhabitants; and all fears of drought are reported to be now removed.

TUESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER.

IN PROPOSING the Vote of Thanks to the Indian Army for the successful termination of the Afghan War, Lord Cranbrook made the following graceful reference to Sir Richard Temple:

"Then, again, I must bring one name which has not been mentioned in the active operations of the war. I allude to the services rendered to the transport by Sir Richard Temple. When Sir Richard found that there were difficulties he went throughout his Presidency, and by his personal exertions got together twenty thousand camels which assisted materially in the removal of those obstacles which threatened to impede the march of the columns. I am bound not to forget the name of Sir Richard Temple, though he is not among those whose names will be found in the resolution."

THE FOLLOWING members (thirty five, including tellers) voted for Major O'Gorman's proposal to omit the name of Lord Lytton from the vote of thanks for services rendered in connexion with the Afghan war.

Mr. G. Anderson, Mr. J. G. Biggar, Mr. T. Blake, Mr. W. E. Briggs, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. T. Bart, Mr. J. Chamberlain, Mr. L. H. Courtney, Mr. L. L. Dillwyn, Mr. H. Fawcett, Mr. J. L. Funnigan, Sir C. Forster, Mr. J. Holmes, Mr. E. Jenkins, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. J. McCarthy, Mr. A. Macdonald, Mr. D. McIlwain, Mr. T. W. Mellor, Mr. C. J. Monk, Sir P. O'Brien, Mr. C. S. Parnell, Mr. F. Pennington, Mr. J. O'Connor Power, Mr. H. Richard, Mr. J. Roberts, Mr. P. Rylands, Mr. Sergeant Simon, Mr. P. J. Smith, Mr. A. M. Sullivan, Mr. C. Tennant, Sir D. Wedderburn, Mr. W. Williams: tellers, Major O'Gorman and Mr. O'Donnell.

Mr. Gladstone, Mr. John Bright, Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Stansfield, and Sir William Harcourt did not vote. Lord Hartington, who had first taken objection to the inclusion of Lord Lytton's name, afterwards voted with the majority.

A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE has been sitting in England to enquire into the working of the law of libel. Mr. Soames, the *Times*' solicitor, made some curious revelations. He said that in connexion with *The Times* newspaper there had been 21 cases of this character brought from the beginning of 1872 to the present time. Of these 14 had been abandoned before trial. In four of those that went for trial, the plaintiff did not recover damages. *The Times* had lost £3,200 in law costs in the 18 actions in which the plaintiffs had got nothing, and they had only recovered £130. In two of the actions in which the plaintiff's had recovered damages neither of them could have paid a shilling if they had been unsuccessful, though it had cost *The Times* £5,000 to defend these actions. Some alterations in the law of libel are sure to be made.

THE STATESMAN would reserve the Indian Civil Service for England-going natives alone. Our contemporary says:

The new men the probationers under the rules published in the last *Gazette of India* should be the best obtainable specimens of that class of educated natives so distinctly a growth of modern days, and so happily on the increase among us which does not refuse to adopt European dress and manners and to mingle with Europeans in social duties and pleasures. There is no hopefulness in the experiment if tried in any other fashion.

Where Hindoos are concerned the difficulty starts with the primal elements of hospitality. It is hard to be friendly with a man who is still so lost in the gall of bitterness and the bond of infamy that he will not break bread with you. But even this obstacle has been triumphed over by Hindoos at home who eat their Temple dinners and get called to the bar like other folks; and it is only by choosing such men free from ridiculous old-world superstitions, that the new native Civil Service can be made an immediate success and the lasting boon to the country.

We believe no one will suspect us of unfriendliness to the class of natives our contemporary refers to; indeed, we count some of our best friends among them. But if the Civil Service is to be made their monopoly the nation with one voice will protest against it.

HIS MAJESTY the King of Portugal has been pleased to confer honorary titles on the following

distinguished personages:—The Governor-General of Goa, Count; His Grace the Archbishop, Grand Cross of Christ; Lord Lytton, Grand Cross of Conceicao; Senhor Eduardo di Balsemao, Chief Secretary of Goa, Vice Count; Senhor Joaquim Mourao, Baron.

BABU DWARKA NATH BANERJEE, Pleader, High Court, Allahabad, and Junior Government Pleader, has been appointed to officiate as Reporter for the Indian Law Reports in the High Court, North-Western Provinces, during the absence on leave of Mr. G. T. Spankie, or until further orders. Babu Dwarkanath Banerjee is a successful pleader of the North-West High Court. He was a distinguished pupil of the late Hindu Metropolitan College.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER.

THE FOLLOWING account of the centenarian Canon Beadon is replete with interest:

Born in the year 1777, he succeeded his father in the living of Stoneham in 1812, the living having been held by the two, father and son, for more than a hundred years. His ancestors presented examples of moderate but not extreme longevity, his father having died at eighty and his mother at eighty-six. Canon Beadon was probably the last person living, who remembered the Lord George Gordon riots. At the time [1790] he was three years of age, and he distinctly recollected having been held up to the window by his nurse to see the soldiers in the streets. His good health was almost uninterrupted; in early manhood he had a slight illness, the exact nature of which is difficult to ascertain, since it occurred in the year 1798. He was about five feet nine inches in height, broad-shouldered and deep-chested, with very long arms and large hands. In early life he possessed great muscular power, which was well indicated by his frame. Even when long past seventy his strength of wrist was remarkable. He was fond of shooting and fishing; the former amusement he kept up till ninety-four, the latter till eighty-eight. When middle-aged he could walk out shooting from morning till night, exposed to any amount of cold and wet, and completely knock up many younger men. He seemed quite impervious to the ailments to which ordinary men are subject. He never knew what a headache or rheumatism was. His digestion appeared perfect, and he could eat anything with impunity. He not only ate heartily at every meal, but used often to eat biscuits, &c., between meals. He was a "moderate drinker"—by no means a total abstainer, and was to the last extremely fond of sweet things. As he grew older his step became slower but he never tottered in his gait. To the last his complexion was ruddy in tint, never showing the parchment-like appearance so often an accompaniment of extreme old age. His condition remained as in middle age up to his death, neither stouter nor thinner. At ninety-seven he had his first severe illness—an attack of bronchitis contracted through going out on a very cold day, and he was never afterwards quite the same. Up to this date he had taken service in his church every Sunday, and his three months' duty in Wells Cathedral, his voice continuing distinct and powerful; but after the attack of bronchitis he was more or less of an invalid. He was possessed of a most imperturbable temper and singularly even spirits, and would not allow anything to worry him.

A MAN in Washington had his legs amputated, and the surgeon who performed the operation placed them in spirits and deposited them in the town museum. The patient, having recovered, has brought an action against the doctor for the legs he took away, asserting they are his property.

THE RUSSIAN Government is about to issue orders making the study of the English language obligatory in all naval schools and classes. The reason assigned is that English is now the general medium of communication amongst sailors. England should return the compliment.

THE GOVERNMENT of India has granted six months' donation batta to the troops who crossed the Frontier and served during the late operations in Afghanistan.

THE SUDDEN death of Mr. A. Keith Johnston, son of the celebrated geographer, and leader of the East African expedition, sent out under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society to examine the country around Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika, is another sacrifice to scientific exploration that will be deeply deplored. No particulars have yet been received.

AT A meeting held in the residence of Mr. Cowper-Temple, M. P., it was decided to organise a Society in London to promote co-operation and sympathy amongst persons of all ages and all classes who desire to act kindly and conscientiously towards the animals over which they have power.

A GIGANTIC TELESCOPE, which is said to be the largest in the world, has just been constructed for Sir Henry Bessemer by Messrs. Galloway, engineers and iron founders, Knott Mill Iron Works, Manchester. The telescope is a marvel of ingenuity and workmanship, and is estimated to cost 40,000*l*.

THURSDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER.

WE ARE informed that 21,480 persons visited the Indian Museum during the month of August last, of whom 20,860 were natives and 548 Europeans and others.

A BURDWAN correspondent gives a doleful account of that district as regards the state and prospects of the crops and the condition of the people. Hundreds of plots of cultivable land are lying waste and uncared for; the people are suffering from scarcity of food-grains. Inferior coarse rice is selling at Rs. 4-12 a maund.

THE FOLLOWING are the ideas of a correspondent on retrenchment:

The District Superintendents of Police are a superfluity and at this time of pecuniary pressure to the State their services might well be dispensed with in the work performed by them may be well entrusted to an Assistant to the Magistrate, and all Sub-divisional Officers might have control over the police of their respective Sub-divisions.

The Magistrate-Collectors are merely the compilers of the reports of their Sub-divisional Officers, of case work they do little. All districts might be split up into several Sub-divisions and each placed under an uncovenanted subordinate officer and one Magistrate-Collector, retained to supervise and control the work of five or six districts. These Collector-Magistrates being under the direct orders of the local Government, there becomes no necessity for Commissioners, whose work consists in saying ditto to the reports of Magistrate-Collectors.

Similarly all Superintending Engineers might be dispensed with, and one Executive Engineer placed in charge of a division assisted by a number of subordinate officers each in charge of works in a Sub-division.

THE STATESMAN makes the following remarks on the last half-yearly report of the British Indian Association:

The half-yearly report of the British Indian Association, noticed elsewhere, is an interesting paper, and is written with much ability as well as singular tact in dealing with delicate questions. The portions of it most widely interesting are those which treat of the apportioning of the Afghan war expenses and of the Viceroy's ill-considered reply to the Association in March last on the subject of the cotton duties. We consider the arguments of the Association on the former question irrefragable, and their remarks on the Viceroy's reply to their address very effective. The rest of the report shows that the Association has not been idle or useless. If all its representations have not had the effect, which might have been looked for, the fault lies elsewhere than with the Association.

REFERRING to our remarks on the *Times of India's* recent article on the Civil Service agitation the *Bombay Review* says:

The still unexplained "Journalistic Somersault," that startled and puzzled newspaper-readers in this city a fortnight ago, continues to attract the attention of the older members of the Indian Press. The newer men, whose roots are only run along the surface, do not fully appreciate the significance of the shameless backsliding.

We had asked—"what is the cause of the *Times of India's* perversion?" Will our acute contemporary of the *Review* investigate this psychological phenomenon? Our contemporary replies:

As to the psychology of the matter, we do not, at present, undertake to go further than the guess hit upon in the concluding sentence in the following paragraph from the *Indian Daily News*.

The *Times of India* seems to have turned upon itself almost savagely in the matter of Mr. John Bright and India. The *Patriot* denotes a leader to the subject, and says the *Bombay* journal has lost its mind on the prospect of the natives of this country actually getting a footing in the Civil Service. The explanation perhaps is not in the *Times of India's* "losing its mind," but from its not having, in this case a mind to lose. Its condemnation of Mr. Bright has probably a similar basis to the Viceroy's approval of the remission of the cotton duties.

We do not think this guess can be quite exact. If it were, we should have to admit that the responsible editor of a well established journal with its character to maintain, to regain, or to lose, could allow himself to descend to the level of a "Vice-Emperour" who avows that he is only a passive instrument to be used for other's purposes, or a pipe to be played upon to any tune. We would fain hope that Indian journalism has not yet come to that.

A native correspondent has written to us on the same subject, offering to solve the problem. The letter is interesting but too personal.

THE ABOVE PAPER says that the Bombay mortuary rate for the week ending August 26th is given as 36-31 per 1000. It would be a grim reading of *Primus in India* if we are to go on recording—first city of India in high rates of mortality.

THE GOVERNOR of Madras is following the example of the Governor of Bombay. His Grace has refused the use of the Banqueting Hall to Madras Society. This Hall, like the Bombay Town Hall, is a quasi-trust property, certain members of the Madras Army having greatly contributed to its erection. This Hall could formerly be had for the asking, just as the Bombay Town Hall for meetings of a public nature; but an attempt has, it seems, been made to treat the Banqueting Hall as Government house property, and thus Madras society is now denied the use of it though long enjoyed by the citizens for many years past. Fortunately the Calcutta Town Hall is municipal property.

FRIDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

THE INDU-EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENCE does us injustice if it thinks that we do not wish well of the Eurasians as "natives of India." The misfortune

is that these will not cast in their lot with the children of the soil. They will harp on *modar vityat*!

THERE WILL be no Durbar at Agra for the reception of the Amir Yakub Khan. He will be received in Calcutta.

A BOMBAY contemporary publishes the following from a "well informed correspondent" at Simla:—

"I fear the Press Commissionership is doomed. I have it on excellent authority that the Batten-*et*-Strachey clique are determined to abolish it and unless the Indian Press are on the alert and protest against it its fate is sealed. In fact just now the *Pioneer* is in favour and *communiqués* in which the bold Roman text of Mr. Batten's hand-writing is very apparent are being from time to time published. They are simply official *communiqués* which are not given to the rest of the Press. If the Indian Press vigorously protest Lord Lytton will stand out; if not the Press Commissionership will be a thing of the past.

We do hope that Lord Lytton will keep himself clear of Strachinanity.

THE PIONEER has the following about the tragedies committed in Burma:

The gay old monarch had during his life-time 53 recognized wives, by whom he had 48 sons and 62 daughters, or a nice little family of 110 children, of whom 59 survived him. Of the 53 wives, 12 died before the King, and of the remainder two were imprisoned by him on account of their supposed complicity in plots by their children the Meng-Gwan and Katha Princes; and two were expelled for adultery. Deducting those who died and these four the King had at the time of his death 37 recognized wives. Of these 7 ladies one only was massacred by King Thee-baw. She appears to have been particularly obnoxious to him on account of her being the mother of the Mekhara Prince a powerful rival of Thee-baw's. No less than 14 of this lady's children and grandchildren were massacred with her. One of her grandsons had fled to Rangoon. Thirteen of the late King's wives quitted the palace either during his illness or just after his death. The remaining 23 wives are still in the palace, and of that number seven only are free or believed to be so. The other 16 are in confinement more or less strict. Seven are known to be in what may be called rigorous imprisonment, some of them are in double-irons, half-starved and not permitted to have any attendants. Out of the 48 sons born to the King 21 died before him leaving 24 alive at the time of his death. Of these 24, fourteen are known to have been massacred by Thee-baw. Four are now alive in India leaving only six including the present King alive in Mandalay. Of these six only one beside the King is grown up. This one is the Kya-begun Prince who is a Innatic; and it is not certain that even he has been left alive. The other four are boys from ten to two years of age. Out of the 62 daughters of the late King, 35 survived him. Four of these all married to princes were with their families killed by Thee-baw in February and March last; of the remainder 21 are now in confinement in the palace, nine of them being in close imprisonment.

Oh! what a horrid tale is this!

SATURDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER.

IT IS reported in Bombay that all the members of the Famine Commission, except the native members, have been ordered by Lord Cranbrook to proceed to England. Why?

THE ENGLISHMAN says: "One of the last failings of which we should have expected the present Indian administration to be guilty, is want of courtesy. It is consequently with some surprise that we have learnt, on good authority, that the official communications addressed by the Government of New South Wales to that of India, regarding the forthcoming Sydney Exhibition have not even been acknowledged." Can this be true?

WE HAVE received an account of the last annual meeting of the Bogra People's Association, at which Resolutions were passed thanking Mr. Bright and objecting to the system of nomination of natives to the Civil Service under the new rules.

THE VICEROY and GOVERNOR-GENERAL has conferred upon Luchmessur Singh, Zemindar of Durbungah, the title of Maharaja as a personal distinction, on the occasion of his attaining his majority—*Press Commissioner*.

ANOTHER LITERARY CURIOSITY has come to Calcutta. His name is Rangacharu, inhabitant of Coimbatore. The *Indian Christian Herald* gives the following account of his literary feats, which he performed the other day at the house of the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotindra Mohun Tagore, C. S. I., in the presence of a large company:

He composed three distichs to a 'Sanskrit stanza of which the fourth was supplied to him by one gentleman; completed a *sloka* of four lines, in each line of which a stray letter was put at irregular intervals by another; counted the number of times a callbell was rung by a third, supplied numerical figures to a square of 16 compartments so arranged that the sum of the figures added together in any direction would amount to a certain figure (in the present case 85,) asked for by a fourth; mentally worked out a sum of multiplication dictated to him by a fifth; identified the notes of a number of brass cups kept out of his view and struck upon by a sixth and so forth, the Pandit receiving the questions and supplying the answers all round—one at a time in accordance with the turn of each of the gentlemen who took part in the performance.

This Pandit of remarkable memory deserves a public reception.

THE INQUIRER quoted by the above journal has a good story of Professor Blackie. On the door of the Greek class-room, Professor Blackie, of Edinburgh, had occasion a few weeks ago to put up this notice: "Professor Blackie, regrets he is unable to-day to

meet his classes." A waggish student, spying this, scraped out the initial letter of the last word of the sentence, and made it appear as if the Professor was regretful at his inability to meet those fair specimens of humanity familiarly known outside the college quadrangle as the "lasses." But who can joke with Blackie? The keen-eyed old man, noticing the prank that had been played on him, quietly erased another letter, and left the following to be read by whom it might concern: "Professor Blackie regrets he is unable to-day to meet his asses!" If this trick had been played upon a European Professor here by a Bengali student, perhaps the Bengali nation would have been cried down to bottomless perdition.

THE ENGLISHMAN announces the death of Abhir Chund Daga, Rai Bahadur, commonly known as Rai Bansi Lal, the millionaire of the Central Provinces. He was a remarkable man. He rendered signal services to Government during the Sepoy Mutiny. He also made his fortune at that time. He had faith in the British Government, and bought in Government Securities at Rs. 75 discount, which his foolish countrymen in Northern India were too eager to get rid of. During the present year he tendered for the post of *blazanchi* of the Bank of Bengal, which is managed by his people.

THE INDIAN MIRROR publishes the resolution of the Governor-General in Council on the subject of the Nuddea Road Cess defalcations. The Government of India fully concurs in the censure passed by the Government of Bengal upon Mr. Stevens "for the neglect of elementary duties which has resulted in this serious and discreditable loss of public money." At the same time the Governor General in Council in consideration of the past good services of Mr. Stevens has reduced the fine as we may call it to nearly half the amount adjudged by the Lieutenant Governor, and has invited His Honor to consider whether he should be permanently kept out of the executive line. His Excellency in Council has also directed that the personal responsibility of the Treasury officers should be enforced.

THE RESOLUTION referred to above thus concludes:

The attention of the Government of Bengal is invited to letter from Lord H. Ulick Browne, Commissioner of the Presidency, Division No. 29P. R., dated 14th September 1875, to the Chairman of the Road Cess Committee, Nuddea (copy enclosed), both the matter and manner of which the Government of India considers highly objectionable. It is possible, if not probable, that this communication may have contributed to that laxity of supervision and inattention to control which prevented for so long the discovery of these frauds. A Commissioner has no right whatever to condemn, in such a manner, to his subordinates any part of the public administration.

We did not know that Lord Ulick Browne was at all to blame in this business.

THE ENGLISHMAN says in effect that if the Hindu employes in public offices cannot do without the Durga Puja Holidays, they should make room for those who can. Are we to understand that in the estimation of our contemporary the religious toleration of the British Government is a mere sham?

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, September 3.—Capetown advices to 9th August state that Amanekanze, with Cetywayo's kraal, has been destroyed. Cetywayo, with a few followers, closely pursued, has fled into bush southwards. Three of Cetywayo's sons and several Zulu Chiefs have surrendered, with all Cetywayo's cattle. Later advices from St. Petersburg state that General Tergoukasow, and not Lomakin, succeeds Lazareff. The Queen's Advocate in Ceylon has been appointed Chief Justice of that Island.

St. Petersburg, September 3.—General Lomakin has succeeded Lazareff. An interview between the Czar and the Emperor of Germany takes place to-day at Alexandrov.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals: 1. Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1878-79. 2. Report on the Legal Affairs of the Bengal Government for 1878-79. 3. Trade and Navigation Returns of British India for July 1879, and a comparative statement from April to July of the years 1877, 1878 and 1879. 4. Oriental Miscellany for September 1879. 5. Messrs. Dickinson & Co.'s Monthly Price List of Printing Papers, Cards, &c., for September 1879. 6. Statistics of the Working of Indian Railways for half year ending 30th June 1879.

THERE WERE 248 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 30th August, of which 93 were from fever, 35 from bowel complaints, 4 from cholera and small-pox, 28 from tetanus, 7 from accidents, wounds and suicide, and the rest from other causes. Nine children were still-born and 3 persons died from old age.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Thursday the 11th Sept, at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Magneto-Electric Machines and Ruhmkorff's Coil.

PRACTICAL Class in Chemistry under Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, on Friday, the 12th Inst. at 5 P. M.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, on Saturday the 13th Inst. next, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Combustion.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1879.

REFORM AND RETRENCHMENT. XIV.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS. (Concluded.)

WE propose to review in this article the expenditure on Telegraphs in India. The expansion of this department within the last twenty years is one of the wonders of British Indian administration. From a few underground lines of wires extending to about 20 or 30 miles twenty-five years ago there were at the end of the official year ending on the 31st March 1878, 18,210 miles of lines and 42,796 miles of wires. And within the last two years the department has taken under its control the telegraphs of all the Guaranteed and State Railway lines which extend to eleven thousand miles of wire. As a matter of course with the expansion of work there has been a considerable increase of expenditure, and we propose to consider whether the amount of expenditure has been out of proportion to the work done. Extravagance we may say at the outset is the besetting sin of Indian administration, perhaps inevitable under foreign rule. The telegraph department enjoys the notoriety of being one of the most extravagant departments of the public service, and notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions of its responsible heads to convince the public that they are pursuing a strict line of economy, we do not think they have been able to wash out that stain, and its being under the fostering care of the P. W. D. of the Government of India tends to deepen that stain. For the first time in the administration of the Department the Director General of Telegraphs in his last annual report has been able to shew on paper a surplus revenue of about two lakhs of rupees, and we think every credit is due to the departmental accountant for his skill in figures. As in the Postal so in the Telegraph Department the public have no access to details, which can help them in scrutinizing the several heads of expenditure. The current main work of the department falls under two major heads, line maintenance and signalling; and the expenditure for this work falls under the heads of direction, superintendence, line establishment, signalling establishment and accounts; there is another head of expenditure called "capital account" comprising construction of lines, plants and tools and machinery, stores, press, freight, boating, cartage &c.

Taking the expenditure of the year 1877-78, the most favorable year of telegraph administration, we have a net revenue expenditure of nearly thirty lakhs and ten thousand rupees, and about nine lakhs and seventy thousand rupees under capital account. The accounts do not treat the last item as a *bona fide* expenditure of the year in which it is incurred, as the value of stores and labor comprised in it is debited to different accounts of revenue when they are used. The whole outlay on the capital account of the department since its inauguration is estimated at 3 crores and thirty one lakhs. The receipts for the last year of report, that is 1877-78, amounted to 32½ lakhs and the net excess of receipts over expenditure to about Rs. 182,000. While this was the case the increase of expenditure was more than three lakhs in excess of that of the preceding year, 1876-77. The bulk of the receipts of the department consisted in message revenue earned, which was upwards of 28 lakhs of rupees, and 4½ lakhs out of this sum was contributed by the several departments of the public service as value of inland state messages and about Rs. 36,000

as value of foreign messages sent. So roughly estimated the value of state messages sent was five lakhs of rupees. If we take into account the interest charges on the capital account which at 4½ per cent would amount to about 15 lakhs of rupees and add to them the loss by wear and tear at 5 per cent, the imaginary profit disappears and there remains a permanent deficit of some lakhs of rupees. The favorable result, however, of 1877-78, was due to a very exceptional cause, that is to say, to the activity of traffic owing to famine, but that contingency will not occur every year and there will not be therefore the same apology of profit. Taking these facts into consideration we cannot say the department is paying its own way, and the necessity for the strictest economy is therefore imperative. The telegraph department has from its creation become a snug preserve for middle-class Europeans, and practically no attempt has been made to introduce cheap agency in its working except the merest cool labor. To begin with the top. It was always understood that the Director General of the Department should be an officer, who amongst other business qualifications should possess a thorough knowledge of electricity and telegraphy. The two first Directors General possessed this qualification, and because the second Director General shewed a lamentable want of business qualifications the Government at an unguarded moment broke the salutary rule and appointed a non-professional man as the third Director General, and once the rule is broken it will we fear continue to be broken until chance or accident throws in its way an officer, who combines a knowledge of electricity and telegraphy with general business qualifications. We humbly think a Director General of Telegraphs without a knowledge of the scientific part of his business is like a fish out of its element. While we consider the present electrician to be an acquisition to the department and the country we think his appointment is a superfluity, and his salary amounting to Rs. 18,000 per annum is simply a waste of money. The electrician of the department has so little departmental work that he can well afford to be a pluralist and hold a number of amateur engagements. A man of vast scientific acquirements he is, as we have said, an acquisition to the country, and we won't quarrel with the Government if it were to foster such a man without deluding the public by giving him a misleading departmental position. Then there is a Deputy Director General, and a personal assistant to the Director General. The cost of the first is Rs. 21,600 and that of the second, who is always an officer of the grade of first class superintendent, Rs. 18,000 per annum. We will not grudge a personal assistant, but are these additional officers absolutely necessary for the efficiency of direction? Can the Director General lay his hand on his heart and say that they are?

We have again a Director of Traffic and a Director of construction, each of whom costs the State Rs. 18,000 per annum. These appointments are recent creations and the expansion of work could not have necessitated their creation. The Divisional Superintendent has both in-door and out-door work, and is always expected to pass a correct estimate of any construction or repairs of work; the work of the Director of Traffic is one of the legitimate duties of the Director General's Office, where the work now done by these two highly paid officers ought to be executed. The Telegraph circles at one time comprised nearly the area of a presidency, and each of these was managed by a Superintendent at Rs. 600 a month; while the circles have been reduced to smaller dimensions the salaries of the Superintendents have been raised in an arithmetical rates. They range from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1500 per month, and there are 20 such Superintendents. What is this but playing ducks and drakes with other people's money? Again there are about 80 Assistant Superintendents on salaries of Rs. 250 to Rs. 400. There was a system of examination introduced at one time which, we have reasons to believe has become to all intents and purposes nominal. Cannot men on smaller pay be obtained for the work which the generality of these officers do? We think at

least half the number might be kept on lower pay, for at the present day notwithstanding the princely scale of pay introduced we have not so many as half the Assistant Superintendents who possess the necessary qualifications, which might eventually raise them to the rank of Superintendent. A clear saving of seventy-five thousand rupees per annum may be effected by the abolition of the posts of Deputy Director General, Director of Traffic, Director of Construction, and Electrician, and a prospective saving of Rs. 75,000 may be effected by the reduction of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents as vacancies occur. The staff of Telegraph Masters and Signallers comprises 860 persons, the lowest pay of a signaller now is Rs. 40 and the maximum pay of a Telegraph Master is Rs. 200 per month. The yearly cost of this establishment is close upon 11 lakhs of rupees, and the excessiveness of their cost is owing to the fact of the authorities rigorously excluding the native agency from the staff. One objection to the admission of the native agency is said to be that natives do not enlist for general service, that is to say, for service in any province, British Burma inclusive. That objection has not much force now, for natives do not object to proceed to any part of India provided there be tolerable inducement and a little considerate treatment, but even assuming the objection to be valid it may be easily overcome by opening a training school in the signal offices of the chief towns or capitals of every Presidency and Province, which will supply cheap recruits for the signalling establishments of these provinces. The knowledge, which the majority of the signallers possess, is merely mechanical, and perhaps any thing more is not expected or required of them. Those possessing superior abilities will of course try to qualify themselves for the higher ranks. No consideration, therefore, can be urged as a plea for the magnificent scale of pay which is now allowed to the signalling establishment. There is another plea often urged in extenuation of this extravagance, it is the disagreeableness of the service consisting in night work and service in unhealthy climates. As for night-work, all offices do not work at night, and those which do are first class offices, to which signallers on high pay only may be attached. The Department, we are sorry to say, makes no consideration on the score of unhealthy climate. For service in such climates dooms men, who toil from year's end to year's end, to reeking swamps. There are, if we mistake not, not more than a dozen native signallers in Bengal, and they are all distributed among the river-line offices and there they are doomed to perish. This ground of complaint will cease to exist if every hand has its turn of service in a disagreeable place and an unhealthy climate. We do not think there is any sufficient justification at the present time for conceding what are called "allowances" in the shape of office allowance, Pegu allowance, and other special allowances. The supply, management, and custody of telegraph stores, involved an amount of waste and peculation which was a scandal to the department, and those who watched its operations despaired of ever witnessing a reform in this branch of its work. But thanks to the single-hearted devotion to duty and the argus-eyed vigilance of the present Examiner of Telegraph Accounts, Mr. Palmer, all doors to peculation have been closed—he has in a manner evoked order out of chaos. It was no small sacrifice that this trusty and devoted public servant made by placing himself under the Controller of Public Works Accounts in order that he might be enabled to discharge his duty fearlessly and faithfully, which he could not have done and which the Postal Compiler could not do if he looked to the Director General of Telegraphs for reward and promotion. Though the prospect of the Simla exodus is being narrowed as regards the bulk of the "camp-followers" of His Excellency the Viceroy, we cannot help lifting our voice against the iniquitous connivance, which permits the Postal and Telegraph Directors to spend two-thirds of a year on the hills. Do those, who uphold the iniquitous waste of public money involved in the yearly migrations, pretend that the State runs the risk of being placed in jeopardy, if the public carrier and the public news-man were not at His Excellency's,

elbow? If it be so the wires which cost the State a mint of money ought to be cut up.

We would in conclusion solicit the earnest attention of the Government of India to the oft mooted question of amalgamating the offices of the two Directors of the Post Office and Telegraph into one and styling the last-named functionary by whatever name convenient. They two together now cost above three lakhs of rupees, and we are satisfied that the combined direction of the two departments will not demand much higher expenditure than a lakh and three quarters. One or two professional experts from each department will afford the necessary aid which the combined direction will require to enable business to run on smoothly.

REDUCTION IN THE P. W. D.

THE Government of India has published another Resolution on the subject of reduction in the P. W. D. This Resolution affects the superior staff. The Resolution says that "the present number of Chief Engineers, and officers ranking as such, in all India is 22, of whom 9 are in the 1st class and 13 in the 2nd and 3rd classes. In order to carry out the reductions in the Department proportionally, it is necessary to abolish five posts in all—viz., two in the 1st class and three in the 2nd and 3rd." The Governor General in Council has decided that the reduction in the 1st class shall be in the Irrigation and Railway Branches. The 1st class Chief Engineer of Irrigation will be replaced by an appointment in the 2nd or 3rd class. There must, therefore, be a reduction of four posts in the 2nd and 3rd classes taken together. The following posts are to be reduced to Superintending Engineers' charges: Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways, Madras, Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Bombay, Central India. One of the posts in State Railways will be abolished altogether. In each of the Provinces of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab, there will be one Chief Engineer in the 1st class, and one in the 2nd or 3rd. The post of Secretary in the Public Works Department may be held either by the Chief Engineer in the General Branch, or the Chief Engineer of Irrigation. The officer who is Secretary will hold the 1st class appointment. The other will be Joint-Secretary in one of the two lower classes. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal is directed to consider the expediency of bringing the business of the Railway Branch and of the Buildings and Roads Branch under one officer. This would be facilitated by placing the Provincial Railways open to traffic under the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, according to the plan now adopted by the Government of India in regard to Imperial State lines. Further, Local Governments are also directed to at once carry out, where the plan is not already adopted, the amalgamation of the several Secretariat offices in the Public Works Department, whereby saving might be effected in respect of separate Assistant Secretaries and Registrars, Superintendents, or Chief Clerks in each branch, on the system similar to that obtaining in the Secretariat of the Government of India. The total number of Superintending Engineers in all India is 60. Their number is reduced to 46. With regard to promotion the Governor General in Council lays down the following rules:

"The Governments of Madras and Bombay being left to deal with their own promotions as hitherto, it appears to the Governor General in Council that the reduced staff of Superintending Engineers under Local Governments and Administrations should be again brought on one common list for promotion. The Government of India is not influenced by any desire for increasing its authority in matters of promotion, but in small lists, such as those of Superintending Engineers under Local Governments, the average rate of promotion, which in the long run must tell, has not time to operate within a reasonable period, perhaps not within the space of the longest official career, and the result is inequality in the rate of promotion, and consequent discontent. The Governor General in Council is convinced that the wishes of the officers concerned are in favor of a reversion to the former mode of promotion. A further reason for the change is found in the fact that the Local Governments are apt to prefer one of their own Superintending Engineers for succession to

Chief Engineer to another who may be unknown to them; and this bears very hardly on the Superintending Engineers of the Local Administrations.

For the first of these reasons the Executive and Assistant Engineers under Local Administrations will be brought on one list for promotion by the Government of India. In this case the Governor General in Council is of opinion the continuance of the present system would be positively unfair.

In like manner and for like reasons, the whole of the Executive and Assistant Engineers and Upper Subordinates now on separate lists under each Local Government will be brought on one list for the purpose of promotion only by such Government. This need not in any way disturb existing arrangements by which Irrigation is made a distinct and special service, though it will admit of the more ready transfer of officers from one branch of work to another within the Province.

The changes specified in the two foregoing paragraphs will be carried out from 1st April 1880.

The Railway list is sufficiently large to allow of it remaining separate in the executive branches; but Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers, and officers ranking as such, will be borne on the General List of Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers for the purpose of regulating their promotion.

There are also good reasons for keeping the list for the Military Works Branch separate, with the same exception.

In carrying out these reductions, superfluous officers in any class or grade must be relegated to a lower class or grade, till the reduced scale is reached, 3rd grade Superintending Engineers being relegated to the 1st grade of Executive Engineers. But officers holding substantive rank in a class or grade, who are so relegated, will retain their present substantive emoluments, drawing the difference as a personal allowance. Acting allowances and extra pay due to temporary promotions must cease in accordance with general rules as reductions are effected. Local Governments and Administrations will be addressed separately on the personal arrangements consequent on the changes ordered in this Resolution.

So far so good. No statement is given of the probable savings from these reductions. Nor are we in a position to know what will be the capital charge for the present and the annual charge in future of the scheme of retirement sanctioned for officers of the Public Works Department. The terms are generally considered too liberal, and it is feared that the ultimate burden on the finances will be greater than the relief which will be afforded by the retirement of the officers.

THE AFGHAN WAR AGAIN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

THERE was again an Afghan debate in the House of Lords in connection with the East India Loan Bill. Lord Northbrook initiated the debate. His Lordship remarked, "he said on a former occasion that the Afghan war had been commenced much more in the interest of England than of India, and that the charge ought not to be thrown on the Indian finances. Her Majesty's Government intimated that they would do something to relieve India, but if this Bill was intended to carry out that intimation no more unsatisfactory result could be imagined. The question resolved itself into this, had the war in Afghanistan been undertaken purely for Indian purposes or had it not been rather for European purposes? If the war was an Indian war, it was a very bad precedent indeed that from the Consolidated Fund assistance should be given to India. If, on the other hand, the war had been undertaken for European purposes, then England ought to bear the cost. This was a miserable proposal. The Government of this country proposed to assist the Indian Government to the extent of £60,000 a year for a few years, and would throw on India the task of paying the two millions in yearly instalments. It would be much less of an inconvenience to Indian finance if the Government of India were to borrow the money in the open market." On this point the Secretary of State gave the stereotyped answer. His Lordship replied, "when the noble earl said they were going too far and undertaking too much—why the noble duke (Argyll) would not have endured that Russia should have an envoy at Cabul, but thought that was a little too strong for him. Reverting to the Bill before the House, the noble earl said that to lend two millions to

India without interest was a shabby proceeding. Those who were responsible for the finances of India did not so regard the measure. Her Majesty's Government had told them that they could not undertake to bear the cost of that war, which was an Indian war just as the former Afghan war was and as were all the wars for the protection of the frontiers of India. And when the noble earl said that Russia would not come there, or do this or that, he asserted that it was for the interest of India that they should show they were able to prevent Russia from doing those things. We had our positions and our men in them, and the Government meant to maintain them and to act in the spirit which had hitherto guided them. They regarded the connexion of India with England as being for the interest of India; and they thought that India ought to know that, when pressed down by the famines which had almost crushed her to the dust, England would at such a period lend her money for a time in order that they might not have to impose on her any of those taxes to which, owing to the repeal of the income-tax, they might otherwise have been driven to resort." Lord Cranbrook had, however, forgotten that according to the Premier it was for the maintenance of England's prestige and character in Europe that the Afghan war had been undertaken. If so with what consistency could His Lordship argue that it was an Indian war, for which India alone should pay? But Ministers are not always consistent in their statements.

Lord Northbrook, however, raised the more important question of the security of our frontier under the Treaty of Gandamak. His Lordship thus dwelt on the probable effect of this treaty. He said, "if we pushed on our posts far from India, it must give rise to quarrels with the tribes; these quarrels must occasion expeditions, and that must lead to cost." As to the second point, should we have a strong as well as an independent Afghanistan? That we should have a friendly Afghanistan he hoped; that we should have an independent Afghanistan with this treaty none of their lordships could expect. Afghanistan had become a subordinate State as regarded the British power. Sir H. Rawlinson gave a most disheartening account of the prospects of Afghanistan after this war. He said there was already an insurrection in one of the northern districts, and that a pretender was prepared to come down and try his chance. Therefore, in Sir H. Rawlinson's opinion, it was out of the question that Afghanistan should be so strong as in the time of Shere Ali or his father. With regard to the third point, as to an interval between the Russian and the British forces in the East, Sir Henry Rawlinson appeared to have been told by a high Russian functionary that the Afghan war would compel the Russians to take Merv, whether they liked it or not. It became, in fact, a matter of State necessity that Russia should redress the balance. What Her Majesty's Government had done would have the effect of producing the very result which it was desired to avert—viz., that the Russian Empire should be counterminous with the British Empire. He could not come to any other conclusion than that this peace would have the effect of throwing greater and increasing expenses upon India. Her Majesty's Government ought, in his judgment, to have accepted some, at any rate, of the liabilities which had been thrown upon India, not, as he contended, for Indian interests, but for some other interests that had not yet been explained." These remarks were the red rag to the bull. Lord Cranbrook was much excited and complained of want of courtesy on the part of Lord Northbrook. He said, "he should have thought, that it would have been more consistent with the courtesy due from one noble lord to another if notice had been given of the attack which the noble earl was about to make." Again: "The noble marquis the late Secretary of State for India had left the House, and the noble earl, having given him no notice, took occasion to quote certain passages from the noble marquis's speech or despatch without giving his noble friend an opportunity of contradicting him or of giving such an explanation as he himself had just given in respect to Sir H. Rawlinson's article. He supposed that the noble earl was going out of town, and he took the occasion of this Bill for discussing the whole policy of the Indian Go-

vernment. He was ready to meet the noble earl, but the occasion was not a fit one when no notice had been given and the House was empty. The noble earl was taking advantage of the House and of those who were absent in calling upon them to engage in such a discussion now." The Lord Chancellor was equally excited. Referring to the remarks of the Marquis of Ripon, who had supported Lord Northbrook, his Lordship said: "What the noble lord had said was, in this case the courtesy which was usual between statesmen in that House had not been observed. It was absolutely necessary that some preliminary information should have been given of this attack upon the policy of Her Majesty's Government if not in the form of a notice upon the paper, at all events in the form of a notice to the individual whose character was to be impugned. The course adopted by the noble lord opposite however, had been so far successful that he had been able to make this attack upon the policy of Her Majesty's Government when only 10 or 12 members of the House were present, the other noble lords who might have desired to take part in a debate on the subject having left the House in entire ignorance that the noble lord intended to move this question. The noble earl had spoken in a debate on Indian affairs earlier in the evening, but even then he had given no notice of his intention to attack the Government on this point." Earl Granville remarked that "when the noble and learned earl rose from the Woolsack he thought that they were going to hear some answer given to the observation of his noble friend. The noble and learned earl had, however not given any such answer, but had certainly given further proof of the excitement which had come over two members of Her Majesty's Government—an excitement which had shown itself in a degree rarely seen in that House. The noble Viscount had always shown a certain amount of animation, but the noble and learned earl had hitherto spoken with calmness and deliberation. To-night, however, they had rivalled each other in the excitement under which they had addressed the House. If Her Majesty's Government, when they proposed the second reading of this Bill, upon which the whole of this question turned, thought that because it had been debated in another place they were to pass it through their lordship's House, without any explanation of its character, they were adopting a course that was entirely new." Then followed the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who naturally supported his colleague the Secretary of State for India. And in these personal squabbles the important points at issue were lost sight of, and the Bill was agreed to. This is the way India's interests are taken care of in the imperial legislature!

MR. DACOSTA ON LAND SETTLEMENT.

ONCE more Mr. John Dacosta has laid India under deep obligation. This gentleman is a retired Indian merchant, who is employing his leisure in placing at the disposal of the English public his stores of Indian knowledge. Whilst in India in course of business he came into contact with people of all classes, and having a quick and active mind readily perceived the practical effects of the British system of administration. He has given in several publications his opinions thus formed on several important problems of Indian administration. The present publication, which is in the form of a letter to Mr. John Bright, is very valuable. In this letter he discusses several important questions, which he thus summarizes:

1st. That the finances of India are in a perilous position, and that the steps taken by the Government for securing economy are not such as to justify the hope that they will extricate the State from its difficulties.

2ndly. That great and radical reforms are needed, such as no administration can be expected to carry out spontaneously and without great external pressure; and, therefore, that the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the administration of India is the only step likely to meet the emergency with any chance of success.

3rdly. That the annual retirement of the Indian Government to Simla, while it is not justifiable upon any grounds whatever, has been productive of great financial and political evils.

4thly. That the system of periodically revising and arbitrarily enhancing the land-tax, which obtains over

the greater part of British India, has materially hindered the development of agriculture, and led to vast tracts of land being thrown out of cultivation.

5thly. That the only object with which the power of periodically raising the land-tax has been retained by the Indian Government, namely, to increase the revenue, has been frustrated by the uncertainty in which that power leaves the landholder, with respect to his future liabilities, and the discouragement which a similar condition offers to the application of capital for the improvement of land.

6thly. That in Bengal, where the land-tax is permanently fixed, agriculture is flourishing, the people are prosperous, and the land revenue is collected at small cost and with a regularity unknown in the rest of India; and that these favorable features in the state of that province have been ascribed by successive Lieutenant-Governors, up to the present time, to the action of the Permanent Settlement of 1859, in protecting landholders against arbitrary demands on the part of the State.

7thly, and lastly. That the highest authorities have urged the extension of permanent settlements in India as the measure best calculated to promote the development of agriculture, the creation of national wealth, and the contentment of the people.

His remarks on the system of land tenure in India are most important. He supports his views with the opinions of the highest official authorities. Thus in noticing the North Western Provinces he quotes the great fiscal authority Mr. W. W. Bird: "This district, (Budaon,) was in a state of great distress and disorganization. . . . It had been much mismanaged, and unauthorized charges, and illegal modes of distress had prevailed very extensively. The revision of settlement took place at a period when the disposition to over-assess was far from being allayed. It is impossible that, in districts so greatly injured in their circumstances, and more in what the French call their *morale*, by oppressive assessments, and great mismanagement, the mistakes and evils which have arisen can be redressed at one operation. . . . No slight benefit will have been gained if the Government and its servants are convinced, as I trust they now are, of the actual loss of money which is certain to follow over-assessment." Mr. Auckland Colvin says: "In 1874, twenty-six years will have elapsed from the date on which the two first of the districts now comprised in the N. W. Provinces were placed in the hands of a settlement officer. Others were begun twelve years ago, and are not yet sanctioned; one of these is not yet even completed. These facts are significant to those who know what the settlement of a district means; the value of property depreciated until the exact amount of the new assessment is declared, credit affected, heart-burning and irritation between landlord and tenant, suspicion of the intentions of the Government, a host of official underlings scattered broadcast over the vexed villages. Nothing can equal the injury inflicted by a slow, uncertain settlement, dragging its length along, obstructed by conflicting orders, and harassed by successive administrations, and finally threatened with annihilation at the moment when it seems to have nearly finished its course. Little wonder that we hear of the land needing rest!" Referring to the Bombay Presidency Mr. Dacosta writes: "The enhancements made in the land-tax have been productive of results still more unsatisfactory. The amount of interference with the cultivators which the revision of settlements necessitates, may be imagined from the fact that 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 acres of land are annually measured in the presidency by revenue officials, who have moreover, to classify them for taxation, according to their degree of productivity. When lands, upon examination, are found to have been made, by means of manuring and irrigation, capable of yielding increased produce, they are subjected to enhanced assessments, which might entirely absorb the fruit of the capital and labour expended in their improvement. This will at once account for the low state of agriculture and the destitute condition of the Indian peasantry, wherever the vicious system of periodical revisions of the land-tax obtains, the evil being greatest where the revisions recur with greatest frequency. The irritation caused by the operations under that system is such that serious disturbances frequently break out on the imposition of increased assessments, necessitating the employment of troops for the restoration of

order. Of Madras Mr. Dacosta makes the following extract from the last Blue-book on the *Moral and material condition of India*:

The land revenue collections for 1876-77 are returned at £3,296,575, showing a decrease of £1,248,438 below those of the previous year. Large remissions of the ryotwara (i. e. under annually revised assessments) "revenue were rendered necessary on account of decrease of cultivation and failure of crops. . . . No remissions, however, were, as a rule, granted out of the permanently settled demand. Considering the adverse nature of the season, the collection of revenue was very satisfactory; but collectors had to resort to coercive processes to a much greater extent than in the preceding twelve months, the number of defaulters having risen from 336,226 to 1,242,877, and the amount of arrears from £306,947 to £833,236. The value of the property actually attached was £194,700 as compared with £167,009 in the previous year."

And what have been the practical effects of the Permanent Settlement in Bengal:

"The revenue of the permanently settled estates in Bengal has for years been realized with great punctuality. Losses sometimes occur through famine, epidemics, the devastations of cyclones, and other calamities of seasons; but under the conditions of the Settlement, no such pleas can be urged as excuses for non-payment; and as a rule, the large present excess of the annual rental over the Government demand, enables the present holders to meet that demand even in the most disastrous years."—Sir G. Campbell's Administration Report for 1872-73.

"The deficiency of the collections consequent on the famine was very small, and such suspensions of revenue as were granted were given as a reward for exceptional exertions in relieving distress. The result is considered by the Local Government (Sir R. Temple) as creditable to the working of the Permanent Settlement."—*Moral and Material Condition of India for 1873-74*.

"I have just returned from visiting the Eastern districts, and I may say, on this occasion, when my administration is only at the commencement, what I could not well say at a later period, without seeming to seek credit for the Government of which I am the head. Great as was the progress which I knew had been made in the position of the cultivating classes, I was quite unprepared to find them occupying a position so different from that which I remembered them to occupy when I first came to the country. They were then poor and oppressed, with little incentive to increase the productive powers of the soil. I find them now as prosperous, as independent, and as comfortable as the peasantry, I believe, of any country in the world; well fed, well clothed, free to enjoy the full benefit of their own labours, and to hold their own and obtain prompt redress for any wrong."—Sir Ashley Eden's Speech in 1877.

Mr. Dacosta thus concludes: "If we could imagine the amount of irritation and heart-burning, of anxiety and despair, which is involved in this boundless litigation; the extent of perjury, bribery, and corruption which it encourages, and the ruin which it brings upon thousands of families every year; and if we would then turn to the state of things in Bengal, where the land-tax is permanently settled, we would realize the enormity of the wrong which we are wantonly inflicting by our periodical revisions of the land-tax."

Mr. Dacosta's pamphlet has been very opportunely published; the question of the land settlement is sure to find a place in the report of the Famine Commission, and Mr. Dacosta's pamphlet will throw a flood of light upon it.

THE DECCAN AGRICULTURISTS RELIEF BILL.

V.

WE HAVE already dealt with those provisions of Mr. Hope's Bill which seek to prevent disputes between money-lender and ryot being brought before Civil Courts, by establishing precautions against fraud by creditor or debtor in their original transactions with each other, and by making it compulsory, whenever serious misunderstanding arises between sowkar and ryot, for either party to resort to a friendly non-judicial authority bound to use his best efforts to reconcile the two. We have shown that the precautions proposed to be established against fraud by money-lender could not be expected to do the Deccan cultivator any good, owing to the latter's utter helplessness and ignorance; and that the provision relating to the appointment of conciliators will not be of much practical use, unless

the conciliators being executive or Police officers, were able to bring influences to bear on creditors, which would induce them to forego their claims wholly or in part. The Bill distinctly lays down that no litigation should be commenced without a certificate from the conciliator to the effect that his best endeavours to effect a reconciliation between the two have failed. The importance of the functions assigned to the conciliator is manifest. Such an officer might do much good in a European country like France where official pressure cannot be exercised with impunity. But in this country where executive and police officers can easily terrify people into submission to their will, Chapter VI of Mr. Hope's Bill cannot fail to be productive of a vast deal of oppression and injustice.

We now come to the provisions of the Bill, which relate to the trial of suits between money-lender and ryot. Mr. Hope says :

Supposing that, notwithstanding all the preceding precautions, the dispute unfortunately develops into litigation, the Bill next endeavours to place the Courts of law within easier distance from the homes of the people, and to make them more absolute, less technical, less dilatory, and less expensive. I may here mention that, out of 4,650 villages in our four districts, only 29 per cent. are now within ten miles of their courts; 35 per cent. are from ten to twenty miles off; 24 per cent. from twenty to thirty miles; and 12 per cent. between thirty and sixty miles—distances which, in the absence of railways, represent a considerable inconvenience and loss of time to those obliged to attend. In pursuance of the objects just named, chapter V empowers the Local Government to appoint any patel of a village whom it deems competent to be village munsif for his own village or, if desired, for other villages also within a radius of two miles. The munsif's jurisdiction will be limited to suits for money not exceeding ten rupees and will generally follow the model of the Madras village-munsif's system, constituted under Madras Regulation IV of 1816 except that the munsif will not have, as there, a further jurisdiction by consent of parties extending up to Rs. 100. The munsif's decision will be final except in case of corruption, gross partiality or misconduct proved before the special judge to whom I will presently refer. This Madras system is well worthy of attention. It is a remarkable fact that these munsifs dispose of nearly one-fourth of the whole civil litigation of the presidency. In other words, some 45,000 suits for which the people in Bombay might be dragged to our regular courts with all their attendant delay and harshness are in Madras quietly disposed of at the people's own homes, without any one of these evils. Nearly the whole of these suits are for sums not exceeding Rs. 20 and nearly half for Rs. 5 and under, but the returns do not show how many of them are for Rs. 10 and under, and therefore tried without the consent of both parties. It has been surmised that many of the disputes here dignified by the name of 'suits' are so petty, that in Bombay they are never brought to a regular Court at all; but the general statistics do not bear this out as in the Bombay Munsifal in 1877 there were 144,412 suits to a population of 15½ millions, while in Madras there were only 190,290 to above 31 millions. Again I understand from Mr. Carmichael, Member of Council at Madras, who has kindly given me much information, that the bulk of them are not between usurers and riyats. But the fact remains that a very inferior agency can dispose successfully without appeal of suits not lower in value though differing somewhat in nature from those with which we have to deal. Although, however, village munsifs may thus be a fairly efficient institution in Madras, where they are a survival of ancient times and where society is still in a comparatively simple state it would be impossible at the present day to constitute them by law throughout all villages or village circles in our Deccan districts. The people are now too independent, too active-minded too irreverent to accept implicitly the decision of village seniors as such or as a Native newspaper puts it 'in the present times of freedom and liberty when even children do not obey their parent the village headmen have no authority and influence.' Even if we in Bombay could successfully impose on our hard-worked and ill-paid patels this, to them, novel function, there is the further difficulty in their case that the bulk of our petty suits are brought by money-lenders with whom the patel would too often be, by want of education or by absolute interest, unqualified to cope. Our advanced conditions postulate a more skilled judiciary, better judges and consequently fewer of them; and these the Government must in the main provide. At the same time there can be no harm in taking advantage of the present opportunity to empower the Government to invest with petty jurisdiction up to Rs. 10 any village patels whom it may here and there find to be qualified by education and character. We may hope that the number of such will gradually increase.

The approximation of Courts to the homes of the people is undoubtedly a great advantage, but it would be the height of folly to sacrifice justice in order to secure this advantage. The Bill proposes to empower the Government of Bombay to appoint any patel of a village to be Munsif, his jurisdiction being limited to suits for money not exceeding ten rupees. Now, these patels are men of no education whatever; they are in no way better than headmen of villages in this part of the country. What confidence, we ask, can be placed in the ability of these men to do justice? And supposing that they had intellectual capacity for the work proposed to be entrusted to them, can they be expected to be honest? Money-lenders can easily afford to spend a little money in bribery; and village patels are men to gain over whom it will not be necessary to incur any considerable expenditure. It may be readily stated that there are very few villa

patels, if any, who are qualified by education and character to perform judicial functions. Mr. Hope tells us that the village-munsif system works satisfactorily in Madras and that the bulk of suits tried by village-munsifs in that Presidency are between money-lenders and ryots. This may be all true; but then we cannot shut our eyes to the peculiar circumstances of the districts of Poona, Ahmednagar, Satara and Sholapore for which the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Bill is intended. In the Madras Presidency the relations between sowcars and cultivators still continue to be satisfactory. The case with the central Deccan is, however, widely different. In the districts named above the feeling of animosity between creditor and debtor have for some time past existed, and they have ceased to have confidence in each other. Then, the Deccan Bill would empower Courts before which suits between money-lender and ryots are brought to go behind the bond. This is, indeed, one of the most prominent features of Mr. Hope's measure. Can village patels who will be appointed village-munsifs be depended upon for exercising this power properly? We appeal to Mr. Hope and his supporters to answer this question.

After the Munsif Courts come the courts of Subordinate Judges, who in Bombay are divided into two classes and receive salaries of from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800 per mensem. Mr. Hope's Bill proposes to strengthen the courts of Subordinate Judges in two ways. The mover states :

"Their number will be increased from 24 to 36, thus diminishing their local jurisdictions and the distances to them from the people's homes; but this, being an executive measure, needs not to be provided for in the Bill. Their powers will, moreover, be considerably increased. By chapter II of the Bill all subordinate judges in the four districts will be invested with what are termed small-cause-court powers, but enlarged so as to include mortgage-cases of the class in which agriculturists are so commonly involved. And by chapter IV, they will all receive jurisdiction in insolvency. The question of how far the summary jurisdiction, not open to appeal, which the small-cause-court model implies, might safely be entrusted to the two classes of subordinate judges has received careful consideration in connection with the opinion of the Secretary of State in paragraph 33 of the despatch: 'I am inclined to think that the principle of summary jurisdiction without appeal might be conferred experimentally on all civil judges in the Deccan with great benefit.' It is considered that such jurisdiction may be conferred on the first class subordinate judges up to the full limit allowed in the Munsifal Small-Cause-Courts Act, namely, Rs. 500 (£40), and on the second class subordinate judges up to Rs. 100 (£8) absolutely, and up to Rs. 500 by consent of the parties (on the analogy of the higher jurisdiction of village-munsifs in Madras)."

The decisions of village-munsifs as well as of subordinate judges are to be final. The decisions of the former will not be upset except in case of corruption, gross partiality or misconduct; while subordinate judges will exercise Small Cause Court powers even in mortgage suits. Chapter VII of the Bill provides safeguards against abuse of power by village-munsifs and subordinate judges. Mr. Hope explains :

But three special safeguards are proposed in chapter VII. *Firstly, inspection.*—A special judge will be appointed to inspect, supervise, and control the proceedings of the subordinate judges, munsifs and conciliators under the Act in all the four districts, and see its new principles and policy effectively carried out. The special judge will be aided, in each pair of the four districts, by a special assistant judge or subordinate judge, who will during the greater part of the year be engaged in travelling about, inspecting and supervising all subordinate courts. In Bombay the collector and his assistants similarly move about, inspecting and controlling the revenue and magisterial administration, mixing with the people, and, in particular, examining the civil work done by mamildars. Long experience has proved that the system produces excellent results. *Secondly, revision.*—The power of revision vested in the High Court by section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure is extended, on the analogy of section 295 of that Code, to the special judge, who will be enabled to call for and examine the record of any case and correct failures of justice, as also similarly to deal with cases called for and referred to him by his assistants just mentioned. The powers of the High Court under the same section will remain in tact. *Thirdly, sitting "in banco."*—The special judge and the assistants with his authorization are enabled to stay the proceedings in any case pending in a subordinate court, and to sit with the judge as a bench to try it. The power of withdrawing a case and trying it himself, or transferring it to another court, which the district judge possesses under section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure, will also be exercised by the special judge, and by his assistants with his authorization. These provisions will enable important cases to be tried by superior officers or a bench, and promote that exercise by such officers of their personal example and that enlargement of their practical experience which are thought so desirable by the Secretary of State.

Section 73 of the Bill distinctly lays down that "no appeal shall lie from any decision or other money suit or proceeding before a subordinate Judge under this act." What the effect of this section will be cannot be better expressed than in the following words of Mr. Whitley Stokes :

It shuts out from appeal the decisions in almost all mortgage-suits. The object of doing so is, of course, to relieve indebted ryots from expense and prolonged litigation. But first I am informed by Mr. Justice West that in Bombay Presidency the courts of first instance in dealing with these suits usually apply the harsh letter of the law in favour of the creditor. Relief is got from the higher courts, in which modifications favourable to the ryot are much more frequent than those in favour of the sowcar. And secondly the useful power which the appellate court now possesses under section 551 of the Code of Civil Procedure of confirming the decision of the lower court without sending or serving notice has in most cases rendered the cost of an appeal quite insignificant. The result of this part of the Bill will therefore be on the whole to place the indebted ryot in a worse pecuniary position than he is in at present. As to cutting off all appeals in order to shorten litigation, the remedy will be worse than the disease. Let us remember that in the absence of an appellate court the Judges of the first instance will have on one (as Bentham says) 'to stand in awe of.' The errors arising from corruption incapacity laziness, precipitation ignorance and love of arbitrary power which are certain to be committed in these difficult landais especially where the Judges are inexperienced and unaided by a Bar will remain uncorrected and cause hardship and discontent. The barring of an appeal in cases of the small-cause type (suits for debts, damages or moveables not exceeding Rs. 500 in amount or value) may be justified, because as a rule those cases are simple and easy and practically it is better on the whole for the community that in such cases the decision should be rapid than that it should be careful and correct. But mortgage-cases sometimes involve the investigation of title and always taking of complicated accounts. A judge who does this rapidly will simply scamp his work; and the power of calling for and revising his imperfect records will as I shall show be a very inadequate substitute for an appeal—a remedy which wherever wrong has been done the appellant's interest urges him to apply. The effect of abolishing appeals should also be considered in connection with the rule as to *res judicata* (Code of Civil Procedure section 13.) It seems to me that great hardship may sometimes be caused by regarding (as we must if the Bill is passed in its present form) the uncontrolled judgments of this subordinate court conclusive on questions of title to land. We may of course, insert a clause declaring that, for the purpose of section 13 of the Code, no court trying a suit under this Bill, shall be deemed as regards the title to immovable property in respect of which the suit is brought a court of competent jurisdiction. But, then, suitors would be exposed to the harassment of repeated litigation which the rule as to *res judicata* has been framed to prevent.

All this is simple truth. The safeguards against the abuse of power by village-munsifs and subordinate judges provided for in Mr. Hope's Bill, are very poor substitutes for the withdrawal of the power of appeal. In the large majority of cases, viz., those in which the subject-matter does not exceed Rs. 10 in amount or value, there need not as Mr. Whitley Stokes points out be even a memorandum of evidence. These suits, it must not be forgotten, are to be tried by village patels in their capacity of village munsif—men not at all qualified by education and character for exercising judicial functions. The revising judge, in dealing with the bulk of litigation will necessarily have to work with imperfect materials. He cannot, therefore, be expected to remedy the injustice which may be done by village munsifs. There are two other grave objections to section 73, which are thus put by Mr. Whitley Stokes :

"Secondly, those records, if, as I suppose, they resemble the Bengali *nathis*, will be masses of ill-written documents in a native character and language which, it is safe to say, no revising judge will have time or skill to decipher and translate. The business of revision will therefore practically be placed in the hands of the sarishtadars, who are notoriously open to the sowcar's bribes; and here, again, the Bill will work to the injury rather than the benefit of the ryot. Thirdly, the revising judge, no matter how carefully he is selected, will be greatly inferior in learning, ability and experience to the judges of the High Court, who now form the ultimate court of appeal in the Presidency. The result will be that rights will be established all over the Deccan, founded on erroneous ideas of law, and the greatest confusion and hardship will result when these rights are upset (as they are sure, at last, to be) by the High Court or the Privy Council."

We concur in every word uttered by the Law Member.

THE CIVIL SERVICE AGITATION.

WHILE we heartily support the meeting convened by the Indian Association to thank Mr. Bright we confess we do not clearly understand the position which the Association has taken in respect of the new Civil Service Rules. The Resolution passed at the meeting was as follows :

"That this meeting, having considered the rules recently published by the Government of India with regard to the employment of natives of India in the Covenanted Civil Service, is of opinion that any scheme, having this object in view, and based upon a system of nomination is (except in the case of persons whose merit and ability have already been proved 'in the service of Government or in the practice of a profession') open to grave objections and will not be conducive to the interests of the public service or to the benefit of the country. This meeting is further of opinion that every reasonable facility should be afforded to natives of India to compete for the Covenanted Civil Service, and upon equal terms with Her Majesty's British-born subjects."

The first part of the Resolution is clear enough.

It condemns in unmistakable terms the nomination system, and in so far it conveys the sense of the native community on the subject. But what is the meaning of the last clause of the Resolution, which says that "every reasonable facility should be afforded to natives of India to compete for the Covenanted Civil Service, and upon equal terms with Her Majesty's British-born subjects." Now, the new Rules, as remarked by the *Times*, do not affect open competition in England; in fact that door remains open as before. Where was then the necessity for raising this question, and what was the object of raising it? If the object was to secure increased facilities for competition by Indian youths in England, that point should have been clearly and specifically stated. What are the facilities wanted? Is it the increase of the minimum limit of age or money-grants to enable Indian candidates to proceed to England? The two questions of appointment in India and competition in England should not have been mixed up. The Resolution as it stands halts after condemning the nomination system? What should take the place of nomination?—obviously competition, but the Resolution does not distinctly affirm that proposition. The last clause is very vaguely worded, but the impression left on our minds as well as on those of others with whom we have discussed it is that it refers to open competition in England. Surely the Indian Association do not mean to say that our countrymen would be satisfied if in lieu of nomination "reasonable facility" were offered to them to compete for the Covenanted Civil Service in England. Why have we then been fighting so long for the establishment of competition in India? Mr. Bright himself admitted the grave political injustice done to the people of India by requiring the Indian candidates to proceed to England at the sacrifice of their religion, family ties, and venerated customs and traditions, and at great expense and trouble for the mere chance of success at open competition in England. The remarks of the mover of the Resolution, however, throw some light on its real scope and meaning. Babu Bhoy-rub Chunder Banerjee said:

"The second part of the resolution asked that the natives should be admitted on the same terms to the service as British-born subjects. They asked for no favour. They were ready to submit themselves to the same tests as British-born subjects. But to ask the natives to leave their country, and their cherished relations, was to ask them to do something which the British-born subject was not expected to do. The effect of having two different tests for the two classes of candidates would be that the respect which the civil Service now commanded would be greatly lessened."

If the object of the Resolution was to urge that the competitive examination for Indian youths should be held in India under the same tests that obtain in England, why was not this clearly stated? But even the explanation of the mover does not quite clear up the point. On the contrary we are told it was complicated by the seconder, who openly advocated the necessity of Indian candidates proceeding to England to pass the examination. The last clause of the Resolution we have quoted above says that "reasonable facility should be afforded to natives of India to compete for the Covenanted Civil Service upon equal terms with Her Majesty's British-born subjects." Now, what are the terms upon which British-born subjects compete for the Indian Civil Service? In the first place their age must not be greater than 19 years; in the second place, the successful candidates among them must pass a probation of two years in England, and undergo a further examination; and in the third place, when admitted they shall be entitled to a certain scale of pay, leave allowance and pensions. Under the new Civil Service Rules the age of Indian candidates for Civil Service employ has been extended to 25 years; do our countrymen wish that this concession should be withdrawn? Then under these rules the probation of Indian candidates shall be in India; do our countrymen object to this provision? As for pay and pension we stated in our last the reasons why the salaries of native civilians ought to be less than those of English civilians, though the difference in pay in the case of the latter may be made up in the shape of personnel allowance as suggested by the Judicial Commissioner of Sind and the *Times*, in order to maintain that theoretic equality in the offices to which candidates of both classes would

be eligible. What could the meeting then mean by affirming that "every reasonable facility should be afforded to natives of India to compete for the Covenanted Civil Service, and upon equal terms with Her Majesty's British-born subjects"? We do not like a double *entendre*. We like plain-speaking. If those, who promoted the meeting, have a secret hankering for competition in England, and want facilities for it, or if they mean that Indian candidates after passing the competitive test here, should be required to pass the probation in England, they ought to have distinctly said so. They speak in the name of the nation, and they ought not to have used any equivocal language in the matter. For our part we think that what the nation want is that in lieu of nomination a competitive examination for Indian candidates for the Civil Service should be held in India, and that if a probation is necessary, it should also be held in India, though we for one have no objection to any successful candidate going to England of his own accord and not under compulsion to undergo the probation there. We repeat we cannot but protest against any proposition, which would force us to surrender our nationality for the sake of service or preferment. We may mention here that the equivocal and indefinite language of the last clause of the Resolution had been pointed out to the promoters of the meeting by some members of the British Indian Association, who were invited to co-operate with them, but for some reason or other the former would not remove the vagueness complained of, and the latter, feeling a deep sense of national responsibility, could not endorse the last clause of the Resolution, and this was the reason of their absence from the meeting.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING disastrous news is communicated by the Press Commissioner:

Simla, September 6.—Late at night on the 4th September a Ghilzai messenger reached Alikhey, having come full speed from Kabul, and reported to Captain Conolly, the Political Officer at Alikhey, that the British residency at Kabul had been attacked by several Afghan regiments who had mutinied for their pay. He said that the Embassy and escort were defending themselves. The intelligence reached the Government at Simla early on the morning of the 5th September, when orders were at once issued to General Massey at Alikhey for an immediate movement upon the Shuturgardan, while General Roberts was instructed to start for Peshawar to take command of the troops for an immediate advance on Kabul. General Stewart was ordered by telegram to hold Kandahar. All the troops on that line now under orders for return to India have been directed to concentrate again on Kandahar. British forces in the Khyber to prepare for operations by Jelalabad when reinforced. On the night of the 5th, Captain Conolly telegraphed the substance of letters received at Alikhey from the Amir himself. These letters state that certain Afghan regiments which had already shown strong symptoms of mutiny against the Amir, had been assembled in the Bala Hissar to receive arrears of pay, which they had demanded. They suddenly broke out into violent mutiny and stoned their officers. They next made an attack on the British residency which is inside the Bala Hissar; but were received by a heavy and effective fire from the British escort. The city mob then poured into the Bala Hissar, plundered and destroyed the Amir's arsenal, magazine and stores, and joined the mutineers in attacking the residency, in overwhelming numbers. The Amir was taken entirely by surprise, but appears to have used every endeavour to control the tumult. He sent to the Envoy's assistance General Daoodshah, who, on approaching the residency, was attacked and is said by the Amir to be dying of his injuries. The Amir next sent his son and the Governor of Kabul, also some influential personages of the town; but the mob was completely beyond control. The attack and defence appear to have continued all Wednesday until evening when the residency took fire. On Thursday morning the Amir, writing in a tone of the greatest distress and anxiety, said that he was himself besieged and had no certain news of the fate of the British officers of the mission; nor is it yet known what has become of them. General Roberts leaves Simla this afternoon to assume command of the force which will be immediately directed on Kabul and which will be speedily reinforced and supported.

7th.—The troops recalled from Pishin have already re-occupied Kandahar. The Amir has asked for our assistance and Badshah Khan the Ghilzai Chief, who holds the count beyond the Shuturgardan has offered his services. Captain Conolly reports all quiet up to Shuturgardan and beyond, yesterday.

So Dost Mahomed was after all right. He was willing to receive British officers in his capital as resident representatives of the British Government, but he could not guarantee their safety. Sher Ali said the same thing. But our Government was wiser than they. We anxiously await farther news from Kabul.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. Ameer Ali, acting Chief Magistrate and Coroner of Calcutta, takes leave and that Mr. Beharilal Gupta C. S. has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Gupta is an intelligent, active, hard-working and steady officer, and has been generally well spoken of by his official superiors. We make no doubt that he will bring strength to the Police Bench of Calcutta and sustain the good reputation of his predecessor, who has, indeed, done remarkably well. On one ground alone, which is quite apart from personal considerations, we object to the appointment. The Presidency Magistracy is a prize appointment for the Uncovenanted Service, and it ought not to be taken away from that service. After the lapse of years Sir Ashley Eden had restored it to the Uncovenanted Service, but it is again snatched away. Could not Syud Ameer Hossein, the Suburban Magistrate, have done for the Police Bench of Calcutta?

SIR STEUART BAYLEY was received at Dacca with considerable enthusiasm. His Honor received the elite of the city on board the *Rhotas*; an evening party was given for His Honor's entertainment by Nawab Abdul Gunny. Sir Steuart visited the local institutions and received two addresses, one from the People's Association, calling attention to the scarcity and the oppressions of the License tax, and the other from the Saraswat Somaj or the Pundits' Institute. Sir Steuart seems to have made a favorable impression upon the people of Dacca.

THE WEATHER reports published in the last *Calcutta Gazette* present a very gloomy prospect. The drought is doing its worst in the districts of the Burdwan division—Burdwan, Bankoora, Beerbhoom, Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah. In the Presidency Division the district of 24 Pergunnas is fairly off, but Nuddea is inundated. The official report has the following notice of the Nuddea inundation: "Throughout district crops on low lands submerged. To north, north-west and north-east of Kishnaghur high floods have wholly destroyed crops on all but highest lands. In Meherpore, Kooshtea, and Sudder about three-fourths of crop gone. Prospects therefore most gloomy." Jessore is said to be safe, but according to later news there the rivers are also rising. In Moorshedabad there has been flood; we read, "*Aus dhan* on river banks and low lands in east of district damaged considerably, and in many places utterly destroyed by rise and overflow of Bhagiruthi and Bhoirab rivers." It is however added that "a good harvest of *amun* expected in greater portion of district. Little hope for hemp and sugarcane." In the Rajshye Division the prospects are generally good except in certain parts of the Rajshye district and Pubna, which have been flooded. In Pubna, it is said, "the Pudma has risen higher than had ever been known." In the Eastern districts the rivers in Dacca have begun to fall, but the *aus* it is believed "will be a 6-anna crop, and the *amun*, though promising in most places, is destroyed over one-third of southern half of the district." In Furreedpore *aus* about three-fourths destroyed by floods, also *amun* in some places, but prospects generally good. In Backergunge we are glad to note the prospects are generally fair, in Mymensing Tipperah, Chittagong and Noakhally ditto. The Behar districts have been more or less flooded. In the Bhaugulpore Division, Monghyr is flooded and cattle suffering from want of fodder; Maldah is one sheet of water and *hats* are there held on boats; in the Sonthal-Pergunnas there has been also a heavy flood. Parts of Cuttack have been inundated, but greater damage has been done to Pooree. The official report says: "In some places whole villages swept away. Villages near Sardiepoore suffered much. Many people must have been rendered destitute. Rice crop damaged. If water does not go down at once, there cannot be more than an eight-anna crop; but no doubt oilseeds and other cold-weather crops will be grown to a larger extent owing to fertilizing deposit. Road between Pipli and Khoorda breached in many places. Fever and sickness very prevalent." Such are the prospects of the crops. The total rain-fall from 1st January to 30th August 1879 has been 34.20, whilst the average fall for

the corresponding period for 24 years was 44.47. So there is an arrear of about 10 inches of rain due to us to the end of August.

SOME of the localities flooded have suffered most heavily. The flood in Islampore in the district of Moorshedabad has for instance been most disastrous. A correspondent has sent us a graphic account of the damage done, for the whole of which we regret we cannot make room. The inhabitants of Islampore have made a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor in which they state that the embankments on both sides of the river Bhoj-rub are gone, that the standing crops have been washed away, and that water is about 10 feet high on some paddy fields. An area of about 40 miles by 4, says our correspondent, is submerged. The people of about 200 villages, the names of which have been given, have been reduced to utter destitution, particularly as they had scanty crops last year. Rice is now selling at 7 to 8 seers to the rupee, and it is feared that the price will rise. The people have consequently appealed to Government for help. We fear the cry for help will also come from other districts. In this state of things the Government ought to apply to the relief of the suffering people the proceeds of the Public Works Cess, which was levied distinctly for famine purposes.

A FRIEND in the district of Nuddea sends us the following letter anent the flood, dated the 5th instant :

You must be curious to know how matters are getting on or rather coming to a stand-still in this district. The flood is the one topic which is now on every body's lips, and heavy and extensive it has been, falling 6 inches only below the great flood of 1871. The loss to crops has this year been however greater inasmuch as the waters came down just when a bumper *aus* was ripening. When I say that three fourths of the expected early harvest from Kushtea to Kauchrapara is gone I think I am not far from the mark. I have sailed over extensive tracts of flooded country. The inundation submerged the lands in the northern parts of the District much earlier, but by the end of the last month the full force of the flood came over the southern half. Distress therefore is not far to follow. The District authorities are however vigilant, and I am informed a committee will soon be formed to take relief measures into their consideration.

You may form some idea of the height of the flood when I tell you that the waters have over-topped the E. B. Railway embankment for miles below Bogoola. Railway communication has all but stopped since yesterday. The Traffic Superintendent is on the spot, but although he is doing all that can be done a patch of matters, I consider it is hardly safe to make trains wade through invisible rails or that it is proper to book passengers for "through" journeys when they are detained from seven to eight hours at station between Kauchrapara and Ranaghat. What adds to the distress of the people is the weather which is yet cloudy and drizzling and which may prevent the drying of the very little harvest that has been cut in a hurry. Surely the Gods are against us and if there is such a thing as the Famine Insurance Fund it can hardly be spent more advantageously elsewhere than in Nuddea this year.

The position of Nuddea is critical ; from what we hear it is worse than the crisis of 1871. Then as our correspondent says the *aus* had been harvested ; this year the *aus* having been sown late did not ripen when the flood came. Then both the ryots and mahajuns had old stores ; this year these stores have been denuded under the tempting pressure of high prices. We hear that the Presidency Commissioner is already on his way to visit the inundated tracts, and as we have full confidence in Mr. Peacock's good sense and judgment, we feel persuaded that he will do all that may be deemed necessary for the relief of the suffering people. We repeat the Public Works Cess Fund should be applied to the relief of persons suffering from the flood and drought.

THE ENGLISHMAN is strangely inconsistent in commenting on the result of the votes for the election of the Tagore Law Professor. Our contemporary says :

"The same extraordinary system of election as that adopted by the Syndicate was followed, the names of all three candidates being proposed when the votes were for Mr. Agnew 17, for Babu Sarvadhikari 16, and for Baboo Mitra 5. The name of the latter was then withdrawn, and votes were a second time taken for the other two candidates, with the result that Sarvadhikari got 21 votes, and Agnew 18. We understand that some of the barristers present objected to such a novel mode of proceeding, and according to all precedents at elections, Mr. Agnew was duly elected at the first polling, having obtained a majority of the votes of those present."

But our contemporary had not a word to say when the "same extraordinary system," as he calls it, had been followed by the Law Faculty, which had resulted in the nomination of Mr. Agnew. The *Indian Daily News*, which seems to be satisfied with this "extraordinary system," is not quite satisfied with the Senate in rejecting the nominee of the Law Faculty. Our contemporary says, "no doubt, the Senate is the appointing authority, but it is a rare thing for the Senate to overrule the recommendation of a Faculty, which is supposed to have special knowledge of its own requirements." Surely our contemporary of British Indian Street, who is a zealous champion of liberty of action in public bodies, will not deny the Senate of the Calcutta University the right of exercising their own judgment. The Fellows of the Senate have as good means of knowing the qualifications of candidates as the members of the Law Faculty, and although in courtesy they might have confirmed the nomination of the Faculty, they should not be blamed for performing their legitimate function. For our part we are not satisfied with the mode in which the Tagore chair is filled up—in our opinion the princely endowment of the testator is simply wasted. He who is most active in canvassing gets the chair. We would follow the principle advocated by the late Professor Goldstucker, who was of opinion that no one should be appointed to the Professorship, who could not draw his knowledge of the Hindu law from the fountain-source, that is Sanskrit. Let the qualifications of the Tagore Law Professor be definitely settled, and eligible men will not be wanting for the chair.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the Press Commissioner).

Simla, September 2nd.—From Kabul August 30th.—News has been received from Afghan Turkistan that the Amir of Bokhara in consideration of the Afghan Government's intention to coerce the rebels in Badkhan has abandoned the intention for sending troops in that direction. Amir of Bokhara is at Karshi awaiting arrival of a Russian Prince said to be son of a sister of Ozar. Some Michni Mohmunda have paid that visit to Kabul. It is stated that Amir told them distinctly he had nothing to do with them.

4th.—In to-day Legislative the Council report of the Select Committee on Mr. Thorutons bill for the regulating and control of Hackney carriages was taken into consideration and will subsequently passed into law. Mr. Stokes introduced the Merchant Shipping bill which was referred to Select Committee. Mr. Thompson presented the Select Committee's Report on of the bill to appoint a Commissioner for port of the Rangoon. The presentation of the Select Committee's Report on the bill to restrict the transport of salt by sea was postponed. The Council was adjourned for a week.

5th.—The Officer at Dozan in Beloochistan, reports on the 30th Sudden flood at Mach. The paymaster of transports office was caught in the stream and washed away. Six lives lost and about 5,000 rupees. All bodies and most of office records recovered. Money still missing search made daily.

LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

A General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Hall of the Association on Friday, the 29th August 1879, at 5 P. M.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja Joteendramohun Tagore Bahadur C. S. I., President, in the chair.

The President in opening the meeting said—
Gentlemen,—The Secretary will presently submit to you the Report of the Committee for the past half-year. You will observe that they were occupied with the consideration of several important questions which demanded their special attention. But I need not enter into particulars as I think the Report is pretty full in its details. Without detaining you therefore by recapitulating what is embodied in the Report, I will at once call upon the Secretary to read it to you.

The Secretary then read the Report of the Committee :

(The report was published last week).

On the motion of Babu Kallynath Mitter, seconded by Babu Charuchunder Mullick, the report was received and adopted.

The election of the under-mentioned gentlemen by the Committee as members of the Association was submitted for confirmation :

Babu Kallynath Mitter, Attorney-at-law, Calcutta.
Babu Grishchunder Roy, zemindar, Sylhet.

Confirmed.

The following gentlemen were next elected members of the Association :

Babu Nundolal Mullick, landholder, Calcutta, proposed by Kumar Debendra Mullick and seconded by Mr. Herjeebhai Manuckjee Rustomjee.

Baboo Kally Prosunno Ghose, Zemindar, Calcutta, proposed by the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C.S.I., and seconded by Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur.

Kumar Dowlat Chandra Roy, landholder, Cossipore, proposed by the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C.S.I., and seconded by Baboo Gopee Kissen Gossain.

Baboo Singhee Churn Dutt, landholder, Calcutta, proposed by Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur and seconded by Babu Persad Das Dutt.

Dr. Gurudas Banerjee, Pleader, High Court, proposed by Babu Rajendralala Mitra Rai Bahadur, L.L.D., C.I.E., and seconded by Baboo Jogendra Chander Ghose.

Babu Joykissen Mookerjee then spoke to the following effect :

Now that hostilities on our frontier have happily ceased and peace reigns throughout the country, it is time that we should represent to our rulers our grievances regarding the financial administration of the country. It is no secret that wide discontent prevails in the country owing to heavy taxation, particularly owing to the increase of direct taxation which is necessarily oppressive. The abuses to which the license-tax has given rise are too notorious to require recapitulation. On the other hand the condition of the finances justly engages the anxious attention of the Government and the public. It is time that the Government should take the people into their confidence in considering financial questions. We have no voice whatever in the administration of our finances. The opinions and feelings of the people are never consulted and it is not till the financial measures of Government become *fait accompli* that they are made known to the public. I think it is time that we should move Government to consider the propriety of giving the people an opportunity of submitting their opinion regarding measures of finance and taxation before they are finally adopted. I am aware that any concession made by Government will to a certain extent hamper its action in cases where promptness is indispensable, but I think that such slight inconveniences will be more than compensated by the resulting benefits. It would be no small gain to Government if they have the assurance that their financial measures have the approbation of the people or at least that those measures have been adopted after a due consideration of what the people had to say regarding them. Government will then have more confidence in its own measures, and the people will have the satisfaction to know that even in cases in which their rulers differed from them, their views and opinions have received due consideration. I think that on these considerations we should petition Parliament for the establishment of a consultative council composed of Native and European gentlemen, whose duty it should be to advise the Government in financial matters. Before the end of each year the annual estimates of receipts and expenditure should be submitted to them for consideration and report. They should exercise no executive powers whatever, and they should only be a deliberative body the members of which will bring to bear upon every financial question the opinions of the sections of the community which they would respectively represent. The establishment of such a council will be the nearest approach to a representative system, and I am sure the proposal will commend itself to your judgment. With these remarks I beg to propose "That a representation be made to Parliament for the establishment of a consultative council to assist the Government of India in the consideration of financial measures before they are finally adopted."

Babu Amarendranath Chatterjee said :

I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for a representation to Parliament for the establishment of a Consultative Council for the purpose of assisting the Government of India with advice and suggestions in reference to financial matters. I am free to confess that there are considerable difficulties in the way of the practical solution of financial questions even with the aid of a Consultative Council. But it cannot be gainsaid that it will have some beneficial effect in so far as the opinion of non-official advisers of Government, founded upon a correct knowledge of the real wants of the country will be of great assistance to the Imperial Government in determining its financial policy. In one branch of the financial administration viz., the Public Works, it is likely to render the most effective aid. I am sure, Sir, the Government has the most honest intentions in enforcing economy, and a Council such as that proposed by the honorable mover, would be, to use the words of Sir Stafford Northcote as eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.

Babu Kallynath Mitter thought that the present time was inopportune for the movement: He would wait till the Liberal Party would come into power and give India Liberal Governor General.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra said, the resolution proposed was a very modest one. It approached the subject with fear and trembling, with an overpowering sense of caution lest it should be thought humptious and extravagant. But it was perhaps the best under the peculiar circumstances of the country. As subjects of Her Gracious Majesty, the people of India had an indefeasible claim to all the rights and privileges which Her Imperial Majesty's subjects enjoyed in other parts of her vast dominion. Conquered the natives of India no doubt were, but reckoned among her subjects they differed not from the people of Ireland. In all Her Majesty's colonial territories the right of having a voice in local expenditure was everywhere most graciously granted by her. Canada,

Australia, Cape of Good Hope had all their local legislatures with power over the local purses. Even almost within a stone's throw of India, in the island of Ceylon, with a large native population, every section of Her Majesty's subjects were duly represented in the local legislature, and that legislature exercised considerable influence on the purse. But it is well that the people of this country should not aspire to that privilege for some time to come. They are so divided by different races, languages, and creeds that they cannot exercise the power of the purse with such unanimity as to make it beneficial to the community at large. This objection, however, cannot be urged against giving an opportunity to the representatives of the people to express their opinion in matters of finance. They have the right of petition now, and in petitions they can, and occasionally do, express their wishes, wants and sentiments, on pressing questions of the day. They cannot however do so until after orders are passed, and their opinions come too late. The object of the resolution was that they should have an opportunity given them of expressing their opinion before orders were passed, and with sufficient information laid before them to enable them to form correct opinions. To the Government such opinions would be useful, and on one occasion a Governor General himself suggested a consultative council of two hundred persons to give such opinions. The opinions would be treated exactly in the same way as petitions, and so the Government could not be in any embarrassed should the opinions be not agreeable to them, and so no harm whatever could result by the concession prayed for. Much of the usefulness of the council would, however, depend upon its constitution. If it be confined to a few who are seated on the highest rung of the ladder no good would come out of it. A big man from Lahore and another from Oudh could only serve to swell the rank of *apkavastadom*. But able and experienced persons representing all the sections of the community, and bringing their experience and knowledge to bear on questions of the day would for certain elicit opinions which the Government would be glad to have. Above all there should be a fair representation of the non-official European community. Born and bred under the influence of liberal institutions and generally well-educated they bring an amount of knowledge of such matters which is rare among the natives, and only allying with them the latter could move on satisfactorily. Dr. Mitra was free to confess that he had in his youthful days seen non-official Europeans of a class very different from what was common now, but even as his youth had passed away so had those noble examples of humanity; but under any circumstances a good number of non-official Europeans added to a good number of representative natives would produce a Council which cannot but be useful to Government; and should the Association resolve upon making a representation to Parliament on the subject it should take particular care to point out how the Council can be made useful and acceptable to Government.

Motion put and carried.

Babu Joykissen Mookerjee next called attention to the obstruction of drainage in Mofussil villages. He said:

There is another subject to which I drew attention at the last general meeting, and to which I beg again to invite your attention—I mean the question of obstructed drainage in mofussil villages. If there is anything which, above all others, is likely to prevent the recurrence of epidemic fever, it is the restoration of the natural water-channels of the country to a proper state of efficiency. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been as anxious as any one can be, that some steps should be taken in this direction, and he has more than once drawn the attention of District Officers to the provisions of the Embankment Law of 1873, which afford great facilities for the execution of such works. The District Officers are, however, overworked, and they have barely any time to devote to the subject. I would therefore suggest that the Executive Committee of the Association should be invited to consider the propriety of addressing the Government of Bengal on the subject.

Babu Boykant Nath Bose seconded the motion.

Babu Nundlal Gossain hoped that the proposed improvement of drainage would not prove a second edition of the Dankuni reclamation by which the people had suffered more than what they had gained.

Motion put and carried.

Babu Amarendranath Chatterjee then addressed the meeting on the subject of the translation and printing charge in the preparation of printing books of appeals in the High Court. He said:

Sir Richard Couch had not been quite six months in office when he passed rules requiring the translation and printing of evidence and documents in regular appeals which were above the value of Rs. 10,000. In the Sudder Court originally, ever since the transfer of the Court from Moorsheadabad in the time of Warren Hastings, Judges were in the habit of doing justice unaided by translations. But towards the last decade of the existence of the Sudder Court, translators were appointed to translate only the judgments of the lower courts for the Judges. When the Sudder and the late Supreme Court were abolished, and the High Court took their place, Sir Barnes Peacock made rules for the conduct of the business of the appellate side of the High Court. He made it a rule that at the expense of the court in regular appeals, paper-books should be printed, containing the pleadings, judgments, grounds of appeal, and the lower court's notes of evidence, and the translators of the court had to translate the pleadings and judgments. This rule, evidently was made with the view of enabling Judges to enter into a consideration of the cases they had to hear with a previous general idea of the case, to assist them in following the arguments of counsel and the pleaders. The business of the court went on satisfactorily enough till 1870. He, the speaker, believed he would be speaking within the limits of the strictest accuracy, in expressing his opinion that the High Court was never stronger, or had the greater confidence of the people than it had in the time of Sir Barnes Peacock. The rules made by Sir Richard Couch were extended in course of time to regular appeals which were below the value of Rs. 10,000, in so far as to require the translation and printing of the oral evidence. By further rules, lists of records had also to be translated and printed. So that at the present moment a person appealing had to provide the costs of the translation and printing, list of the record and of every paper and of every bit of evidence on which the decision of the case could possibly turn. He, the speaker, said that the rules led to great hardship, and annually many cases had to be struck off in consequence of the inability of the appellants to pay for translation and printing charges. He, the speaker, deprecated the rules as an infringement of and a departure from, the general policy recognized from the

earliest times for the administration of justice in this country. Translations and printing were insisted on for the first time in one of the old regulations for appeals to Her Majesty in Council. But the right of appeal to the Sovereign in England was always treated as a special case. He, the speaker, knew it as a fact that even in Privy Council cases, the costs of translation and printing were never looked upon as legitimate costs in the case, and up to this moment the Privy Council did not include them in their decrees—viz., in the order for costs which it awarded in favour of the successful party, and down to a comparatively recent time successful litigants in the Privy Council could not recover such costs at all. About four or five years ago Justice Markby, in charge of the Privy Council Department, directed an inquiry into the matter, and being of opinion that it was unjust that such costs could not be recovered on the ground of their not being provided for in the Privy Council order, caused some letters to be written to the Registrar of the Privy Council, and, the speaker believed, that the result of the correspondence was an intimation from the Registrar of the Privy Council, that the Lords of the Judicial Committee did not see it fit to depart from their usual practice. But since then the cost of the paper-book in Privy Council cases had been allowed to be recovered in execution of decrees upon certificates of the High Court, as costs incurred in the High Court. He, the speaker, was of opinion that in the present altered circumstances in the Judicial Service, there was less reason for requiring translations than there was in the days of the Sudder Court and in the early days of the High Court, when the majority of the Subordinate Judges did not know English. In the present day he believed almost all the Subordinate Judges knew English, and if they were required to record in English depositions taken by them, in the presence of the parties' pleaders, there would be no occasion for the translation of the oral evidence in the High Court. According to the present practice obtaining in the mofussil, depositions are taken down in the vernacular by the amil, and notes of them taken down in English by the Subordinate Judge. He, the speaker, thought there could be no objection to the taking down of the depositions in English, and that it would not be attended with any inconvenience, as the pleaders engaged in cases before the Subordinate Judges at the present time were gentlemen who knew English well. There could be no objection to such a practice on the score of the witnesses not knowing English, because in sessions cases depositions were taken down in English by the Sessions Judge and explained to the witness. Well, the speaker was of opinion that if such a practice obtained in criminal cases, where the life and liberty of the subject were involved, there could be no valid objection to the extension of the practice to civil cases as well.

As regards the translation of documents, he, the speaker, was of opinion that the mass of documents need not be translated, but might be read from copies supplied to the pleaders by their clients, and which were taken generally from the record, subject to correction by reference to the original record in cases of mistakes and discrepancies. He, the speaker, would not give many instances of the enormous cost which the parties were put to in the High Court for translation and printing. He would instance the case of the *Takoo Munshis*, in which the translation and printing costs came up to something like Rs. 24,000, and the respondents, who had paid about Rs. 8,000, could not for want of means secure the services of senior barristers when the case came on for hearing. The unsuccessful respondents who had paid a large sum of money for costs of translation and printing could not take their case to the Privy Council for want of funds. He, the speaker, thought that the constitution of the High Court, having so many Civilian Judges, the Native Judge, and five Barrister Judges, thus making a proportion of five barrister Judges to seven Civilian Judges and one native Judge, in a court consisting of thirteen Judges, afforded the strongest argument that it was never the intention of the Government that suitors in the High Court were to be denied justice unless they could afford to pay for rendering their cases intelligible to the Judges in English. He, the speaker, warmly eulogised the Civilian Judges as accomplished vernacular scholars, and said that the administration of justice had been very satisfactory before the paper-book system was introduced, and that it had not improved since. He, the speaker, said that it was an additional tax on justice, and that if the paper-book system was to be considered as an indispensably necessary part of the machinery for the administration of justice, the cost should be met from out of the stamp revenue, or some other way, and not from the poor suitors' pockets. He, the speaker, said that the cost for printing would not be required if the translations were done away with, and concluded by moving.

"That this Association considers that the paper-book system in regular appeals, obtaining in the High Court of Calcutta, appellate side, is productive of great hardship to suitors, and that the Committee of the Association be requested to take the matter into consideration, with a view to memorialize Government on the subject, or to take such other steps as they may think necessary in that behalf."

Baboo Saligram Sing in seconding the motion, said that there was a growing complaint that justice was becoming very dear in this country. What with Court-jees and Counsel's fees, and the still more formidable extra fees, not sanctioned by law or authority, the poor are well nigh on the brink of despair as far as mofussil justice is concerned. Fancy their consternation when they find that the highest tribunal in the country imposes obstacles in the way of justice. Justice is dearest there. The system of translation of the record and the preparation of English paper-books at the expense of the suitor has gradually assumed such prohibitory proportion that the judges themselves are beginning to shrink from the figures which represent the impositions on poor suitors to meet a disqualification in the judges themselves. This occurs especially in regular appeals. Facts have only to be stated to astound the most callous imagination. Fully a fifth of the regular appeals filed have to be struck off because the poor suitors cannot manage to produce in due time the fee for the paper-book. On one occasion I remember the cost of preparing the list of documents &c., to be translated and printed came to, a sum of money close upon a thousand. In one case that came from Gya I had the honour to appear for the appellant, and in that case on his behalf I had to deposit Rs. 1058 for the preparation of the paper-book, whilst the value of the subject matter in dispute was only Rs. 10,000. Paper-books have sometimes cost fabulous sums, e. g. in the Tashkhal case of Backergunge the appellant had to pay Rs. 17,000 and the respondent from 6000 to 8000 rupees. Enquiry will bring

to light the serious hardships caused by the system under which suitors are thus charged for helping to qualify the judges to do them justice. I should not go the length of saying that the power of manipulating the vernacular record, so as to dispense with the paper-book, should be a *sine qua non*, but what I do wish to impress upon you is that you should move in the matter of making the course of justice as free as possible, and placing justice in its highest form as administered in the highest courts of justice within the reach of the poorest persons.

Motion put and carried.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra said, the worst month for enjoying a holiday was September, next only to July and August. The country then—at least in Bengal—is under water, and the dry land is reeking in jungle and malaria. No one can then have a run after a jackal, unless he chose to wade knee-deep through water and puddle, and the chance of a stray shot at a snipe was associated with that of a sun-stroke or an attack of ague. No one then could be certain of the weather for six hours, and if nothing worse happened, being drenched with a good shower-bath was always on the card. It was not remarkable, therefore, that the Europeans should detest the Dusserrah vacation. It can never be well enjoyed by them. Doubtless one could run to Benares or "do" the Taj or the Kumbh; but that cannot be repeated three times without the idea becoming pulling. The planters at the time are busily engaged in drying and packing, and notwithstanding their proverbial hospitality, are not always at leisure so to entertain their friends as they are later in the season. The case was very different with the Natives employed in public offices. They sought not Shikar, nor the hospitality of planter friends. They had no penchant for running after jackals, for the honor of the first spear, or for winning the brush for their caps. A great number of them come from distant homes to centres of toil and business, and the Dusserrah is the only time when they can go home, look after their domestic affairs, and observe the rites of their religion. To them the Dusserrah vacation is a question of the utmost importance, and the agitation which has lately been made to do away with, or curtail the period of the vacation, has filled them with the greatest anxiety. The agitation commenced with the Chambers of Commerce, and it led to the appointment of a Committee by Government to report on the question. The Committee consisted of two Government officers, some merchants and tradesmen of Calcutta, and two natives. The deliberations of the Committee did not result in a unanimous verdict. It is said the native members have urged that the period of the vacation should continue to be twelve days; the merchants and tradesmen have recommended four days; and the Chairman has split the difference, and suggested eight days. The report of the Committee is now before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and it is time that the Association should take action about it. Dr. Mitra would be the last to put any obstruction to the advancement of commerce. He was well aware that the country had largely benefited by its foreign commerce. He knew that that commerce had swelled from 15 to 60 millions within his personal experience. It had enabled the people to make the most of their agricultural labour, and to tide over manifold difficulties and distress, and every thing possible should be done to promote that commerce. But he could not help thinking that the cry was raised not for commerce, but for some other purpose which he did not care to define. Government had already provided for every convenience for the loading and unloading of ships, for Custom-house passes, and for cashing notes, during the vacation that could be reasonably required, and nothing further was needed. Certain it was that those who wished for the curtailment of the Dusserrah, frequently urged the Christmas vacation to be extended to ten or twelve days, instead of three days now allowed for it. It was equally certain that the pressure of business in Calcutta during December was ten times greater than what it was in September and if a vacation in September was injurious to commerce it would be tenfold more so in December. In Madras or Bombay the Christmas vacation extended to ten or twelve days and no one heard of the trade and commerce there having been put to disorder. The commerce of Bombay was many times greater than that of Bengal, and in the busiest of seasons the vacation did no harm there. The merchants and the tradesmen of Calcutta knew this perfectly well, and the obvious inference therefore was that the cry of injury to commerce was not well founded. But whatever that was, the natives could not but look upon the proposition without the greatest disfavor. It was calculated to deprive them of an opportunity of attending to their religious duties, for the mofussilites could not go home and perform their pujas within four days, nor could they do so in their town lodgings, where they had not the necessary means for doing so. They would be denied the opportunity of visiting their family once a year, and they can have no chance of recruiting their health by periodical relaxation without incurring pecuniary loss. The last argument has been felt by Government as a matter of great importance, and to enable its officers to keep in proper health for the satisfactory discharge of their duties they have devised the rules for furlough, and privilege leave; but the hard-worked keranis, the drudges of office, can never get the benefit of those rules, and rarely if ever obtain them. No head of a Department can grant such leave to his working hands without upsetting his office work. Leave on private affairs can be had by submitting to a deduction of salary which the ill-paid kerani cannot submit to, and the curtailment of the vacation is tantamount to declaring that while the favoured high officers will enjoy privilege leave of one month in every twelve, the poor must rot in his chain, and never have a leave. This is a serious issue; and justice and humanity alike prompt that its decision should not be arrived at without the consideration due to the requirements of the poor. The Europeans whose lot has been cast among the people of this country, who make money by the labour of those people, whom Providence has placed in the position of guardians of the unfriended poor, should look to the wants and requirements of the subject race with more sympathy than what the proposition under notice implied. Commerce cannot and does not suffer by the vacation as it is, but the people will suffer grievously if it is curtailed, and it behoves the Association to move in the matter, and to submit a representation to Government which, the speaker was satisfied would take a just and sympathetic view of the case.

Maharaja Narendrakrishna Bahadur seconded the motion.

Motion put and carried.

Thanks were next voted to the chair and the meeting separated.

MONEY MARKET.

(September 6, 1879.)

GOVERNMENT LOANS.

4 Per Cent. Promissory Notes	Rs. 94	2	a	94	4
4½ Per Cent. of 1870 (1885)	99	0	a	99	4
4½ Per Cent. of 1871 (1881)	95	8	a	96	0
4½ Per Cent. of (Trans.) of 1872 (1879) Reduced to 4 p. ct.					
4½ Per Cent. of 1878-79 (1893)	100	15	a	101	2
4½ Per Cent. of 1879 (1893) (New loan)	100	15	a	101	2

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES OF 1867.

5 Per Cent. for 15 years (1882)	Rs. 100	7	a	100	8
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CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

6 Per Cent. of 1864 (1884)	Rs. 107	0	a	107	8
6 Per Cent. of 1865 (1885)	107	8	a	108	0
6 Per Cent. of 1866 (1886)	108	0	a	108	8
6 Per Cent. of 1867 (1887)	108	8	a	109	8
6 Per Cent. of 1870 (1890)	110	0	a	110	8
6 Per Cent. of 1872 (1892)	110	8	a	111	8
6 Per Cent. of 1878 (1908)	102	0	a	102	4

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS Rs. A. P.

V. N. Singengar Esq., Bangalore	6	10	0
T. Anund Row Esq., Mysore	23	4	0
Secretary Behar School	2	8	0
R. Raghunath Row Esq., B.A., Mayaverum	4	8	0
Chairman D. R. C. C. Commillah	6	0	0
Vamon Narayan Oke Esq., Ahmednagar	20	0	0
Baboo Ram Chunder Bhoomic, Dinagapore	20	0	0
Baboo Nehal Chaud, Muzaffernagar	6	8	0
Baboo Kailly Krishna Mookerjee, Bhargulpore	4	9	0
Baboo Ramanath Banerjee, Durbhangah	6	10	0
Baboo Nundalal Gossain, Serampore	11	8	0
Baboo Bepin Behary Day, Muzafferpore	15	0	0
Baboo Bany Madhub Banerjee, Bhargulpore	3	4	0
Baboo Ram Prakash Lal, Sarun	19	4	0
Baboo Basant Coomar Newghi, Manbhoon	10	0	0
Baboo Baroda Kant Bhattacharjee, Sachok	3	7	0
Baboo Poorno Chander Ghose, Rajshye	13	4	0
Baboo Nundo Lal Pramanick, Sibisagar	6	14	0
Baboo Anund Chunder Biswas, Chuprah	10	0	0
Baboo Prosanna Coomer Datt, Dacca	6	10	0
Baboo Gopi Ballab Roy, Balasore	5	0	0
Baboo Bhagobutty Churn Ghose, Rangoon	13	4	0
Baboo Tekiat Sidh Nath Singh, Pachamba	10	0	0
Baboo Kally Prosanna Roy Chowdry, Midnapore	20	0	0
Baboo Basanta Kumar Das, Dinagapore	6	10	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—September 8, 1879.

GENERAL.—Moulvi Abdool Hye, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Balasore, is transferred to Bankoora. Syed Mobarak Ali is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade in Bhargulpore, vice Mr. E. McL. Smith, on deputation.

Baboo Mohendranath Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on settlement duty, Chittagong, is allowed leave for one month and twenty-three days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 20th September 1879 or any date on which he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Harradun Ghose, Officiating Tehsildar of Ungeol, Cuttack, is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector, with effect from the date on which he received charge of his duties.

Mr. H. A. D. Phillips, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is in charge of the Khoordah Division of the Pooree district is posted temporarily to the Sudder Station of that district.

Baboo Sitakant Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Pooree, is appointed to have temporary charge of Khoordah division of that district and is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act VII (B.O.) of 1868.

Baboo Hurry Mohun Chandra Second Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division is allowed leave for two months and eleven days under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 1st September next.

Mr. W. D. Blyth, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Pergunnahs, acted as Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue from the forenoon of the 20th instant to the afternoon of the 23rd idem.

Mr. J. Kelleher, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Backergunge is allowed subsidiary leave for two days, in extension of that granted to him under orders of the 3rd June last.

Mr. A. W. Cosserat, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on special duty, Dooanka, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for forty-five days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Jugoo Mohun Bhattacharjee, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is transferred to Dacca for employment on Dearah settlement work.

Baboo Gobind Chunder Bysack Sub-Deputy Collector Mymensingh, is transferred to Dacca for employment on Dearah settlement work.

Mr. A. Ratray Deputy Magistrate and Collector has been granted two months' extension of leave by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India.

The extension of leave now granted and the extension for two months previously granted to Mr. Ratray by the Secretary of State, as notified in the Calcutta Gazette of the 12th February last will count as leave under Section 10, Suppt. F to the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. J. A. Bourdillon reported his departure from India on furlough on the 22nd August 1879.

Mr. J. Scott, Curator of the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden Calcutta is appointed in addition to his present duties to have charge of the Botanical Garden Calcutta, during the

absence on deputation, of Dr. King, or until further orders with effect from the date on which he relieved that officer.

Dr. D. D. Cunningham Professor of Physiology Medical College Calcutta and in charge of the duties of Government Quinologist, is appointed in addition to his present duties to have charge of the Cinchona plantation in Bengal during the absence on deputation of Dr. King, or until further orders with effect from the date on which he relieved that officer.

POLICE.—Mr. F. A. Chichester, Assistant Superintendent of Police Sarun, is allowed leave to Europe for a period of eighteen months, under Section 4, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code together with subsidiary leave for fourteen days with effect from the 30th ultimo.

Mr. C. Wintle, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of a Sango Division of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, is posted to the Sudder Station of that district.

EDUCATION.—Mr. H. M. Weatherall is appointed to be a member of the District School Committee of Tipperah.

Mr. Augh William McCann M.A., is appointed to the Fourth Class of the Bengal Educational Service and to be a Professor in the Presidency College with effect from the 13th ultimo.

Mr. J. A. Martin B.A., Professor of Presidency College is transferred to the Krishnagur College.

Mr. G. Bellatt, Officiating Inspector of Schools Rajshaye Circle is allowed furlough for two years under Section 21 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 18th November 1879, together with subsidiary leave for seven days under section 34 of the Code.

Baboo Nilmani Mookerjee M.A., Assistant Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College is promoted to the Third Class of the Subordinate Educational Service, vice Moulvi Abdool Ahad, deceased.

Advertisements.

LIFE OF DAVID HARE, 1 Re. & 8 As.

Spiritual Stray leaves, one rupee.

BY PEARY CHAND MITTRA.

To be had at No. 20, Nimitolla Street, Calcutta.

A general meeting will be held at the ALBERT HALL, College Street, on Friday next the 13th instant at 5-30 P. M.

A Paper will be read by Mr. James Wilson on "The Present Practicable Range of Social Intercourse between Natives and Europeans."

All Friends of Social Progress are invited to attend.

M. S. KNIGHT.

Honorary Secretary.

NOW READY,

The New Civil Court Manual,

Being the 3rd Edition of the "Civil P. Code and other Acts" considerably improved and enlarged. It contains a number of important Acts in addition to those published in the second edition, and possesses one great advantage—viz., that in the Code are embodied the numerous important amendments made by the Amending Act,—Rs. 8; by post, Rs. 8-8. Apply to Mr. Cranenburgh, Police Court.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM ASSAM.

A combined Steamer and Tonga Service has been established between Kownea on the Northern Bengal State Railway, and Dhubri on the Bramahpootra.

A Steamer leaves Kownea after the arrival of the mail train on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and passengers may expect to reach Dhubri on the same evening.

A Steamer leaves Dhubri at 5 A. M., on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the corresponding steamer on the river Tista reaching Kownea in time for the mail train which leaves at 6 P. M.

THROUGH-FARES.

1 Seat in Tonga, upper class in Steamer			
with 12 seers of luggage	Rs. 10	0	0
3rd class in Steamer only	1	0	0
1 seat in Bullock carriage	2	0	0
Luggage, which should be sent one day-ahead, per maund	14	annas.	

For further particulars apply to the "Agent Dhubri service" Kownea or to the Engineer-in-Chief Northern Bengal State Railway.

JAMES G. LINDSAY, LIEUT. COLL. R. E.
Engineer-in-Chief N. B. State Railway.

WANTED.

A Sheristadar for the Sudder Munsiff's Court Cachar. Salary Rs. 40 rising to Rs. 60.

None need apply who has not the experience of the work in a Civil Court and does not possess a fair knowledge of English and Bengali.

Application, with copies of testimonials, should reach the undersigned before 15th September 1879.

CHANDRA NATH NANDI,
Extra Asstt. Coms., Cachar.

18th August 1879.

PROSPECTUS OF THE "MARY CARPENTER" SERIES OF BOOKS.

The Committee of the Bengal Branch of the National Indian Association, having resolved to issue a series of Reading Books to be called the "Mary Carpenter Series"—to be written in an amusing and instructive style adapted for advanced girls and women—invite the assistance of competent Bengali writers in the production of such books on the conditions and terms herein stated.

The following subjects are suggested:—
Stories.

Biographies of Celebrated Persons.

Travels, with some account of foreign countries and their productions, anecdotes of Natural History, explanations of Natural Phenomena, or descriptions of modern discoveries or inventions.

The books to be written in prose and in the Bengali, vernacular, the style being framed after the best models, free from pedantic Sanskrit compounds on the one hand, and from vulgar colloquialisms on the other. The distinguishing characteristic must be a high and pure standard of morality; not only must indecent subjects be avoided but even words which suggest vulgar or impure ideas must be eschewed. The ideas conveyed in the books must be presented as far as possible from a Native point of view. Although it is desired that no attempt should be made to inculcate any religious dogmas, the books should not be wanting in religious tone.

For the next year the committee propose to give effect to the above Resolution by offering a prize of (Rs. 200) Two Hundred Rupees for the best work published during the year ending 30th June 1880, that may come within the scope of the above Resolution and up to the standard indicated therein.

Authors desirous of competing for the above prize must send their works before the 1st July 1880 to Mrs. J. B. Knight, Honorary Secretary, 4½ Esplanade, Calcutta.

The book to which the prize may be awarded must in all subsequent issues and editions have a fresh title-page added to it, with the words *Mary Carpenter Series* inscribed thereon.

The copyright of the book to which the prize may be awarded will remain with its author.

Good printing and neat binding are considered essential.

M. S. KNIGHT,

Honorary Secretary.

DEHREE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Competitive Examination of candidates for admission to the Dehree Training School will be held in Calcutta, Allahabad and Lahore on Monday the 22nd September 1879, and following days.

Chief Engineer's Office } D. B. HORN.
The 26th August 1879. } Assistant Chief Engineer

NOTICE.

Tenders are invited for the execution of the following works in the Purneah District during the ensuing Cess year commencing 18th October 1879.

2. Tenders must be in P. W. D. Form No. 7 M.
3. Amounts of allotments Rs. 39653.
Earthwork repairs on 38 Roads ... Rs. 18698
Masonry and Frontier Bridges on
1 Road ... 3463
Frontier Bridges on 4 Roads ... 13790
Repairs on Bridges on 3 Roads ... 3202
One Inspection Bungalow ... 500
4. Work to be commenced by the 15th of October, Earthwork repairs to be completed by 31st of December 1879, and Bridging by the 30th June 1880.
5. Earnest money according to Form No. 7 M., to be forwarded with each tender.
6. Further particulars can be obtained on application to the District Engineer's Office, Purneah.
7. Tenders will be received by the District Engineer up to the 18th October 1879.

R. G. S. ROBERTS,

District Engineer.

NORTHERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

REDUCED THROUGH RATE FOR TOBACCO.

On and from Monday 1st September 1879, Tobacco in consignments of 200 maunds and upwards will be carried from Kownea Rungpore and Damer Stations, to Calcutta at a special through rate of 9 annas per maund.

By Order,

Traffic Supdt's Office : } G. M. DRURY,
Saidpur, 28th August 1879. } Traffic Superintendent.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

President.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, K.T.
Vice-Presidents.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.

Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY,
Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.
The Directors submitted the following Report on the
business done by the Company during the year which
closed on the 31st December, 1878.

Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, as-
suring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which
amount to £33,022-17-3.

The Claims which occurred during the year, includ-
ing 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising
under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable
on account of these amounts, with Bonus additions, to
the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to
£2,852,566-11-3, being £140,689-19-8 above what it
was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund
is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set
aside to meet the claims under that Department of the
Company's business.

Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued
securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and for which,
the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

INDIAN BRANCH. CHIEF OFFICE FOR INDIA.

1, HASTING STREET, CALCUTTA.

Local Board of Directors:

R. A. Lyall, Esq. (Lyall, Rennie & Co.,) Merchant.
E. T. Roberts, Esq., Solicitor.
Robert Steel, Esq., Merchant.

General Agents for India: ROBERTS, MORGAN
& CO., No. 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

N. B.—Persons assured with Profits in this Com-
pany are not liable as shareholders or members of the
Company.

READ, COMPARE, THEN BUY.

NOW READY FOR SALE.

The FIRST PART of my COMPREHENSIVE KEY TO
LAMB'S TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE. To be had at No. 28,
Gopee Mohun Dutt's Lane, Shambazar, Calcutta; Ori-
ental Seminary Garanhatta, and Presidency Press No.
8, Chitpore Road Lall Bazar, Calcutta. Price of two
parts complete Rs. 1-8 to subscribers (i.e. those who
have brought forms, or will buy the 1st part), and
Rs. 2 to non-subscribers (i.e. who will buy the two
parts complete, and one anna and six pies postage for
each part).

N. B.—This Key when complete is intended to be
not only a Key to "Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare,"
but a small hand-book of English synonyms and idio-
matic phrases, and a help to the study of Shakespeare's
FOUR GREAT PLAYS.

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Head-Master of the Oriental Seminary.

Author of Keys to English Entrance Courses for the years
from 1867 to 1878, and Key to Lethbridge's (Large) Selec-
tions, &c. &c. &c.

The Text Book, printed in big type, nicely got
up and bound in cloth is also to be had of me—Price
twelve annas Postage 2 annas a copy.

RUSSICK LAUL SIRCAR.

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An efficient substitute for Quinine. Sold by the
principal European and Native druggists of Calcutta.
Obtainable from the Superintendent, Botanical Gar-
den, Calcutta. Post free, at—4oz. Rs. 6; 8oz. Rs. 11;
16oz. Rs. 20-12. Cash with order.

ESTABLISHED IN 1875.

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No. 1, Chitpore Road; Bartalah, Calcutta,
TERMS EASY—Cash.

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customers only. Postage ½ anna, price 2 annas.
B. K. DATTA,
Homœopathic Practitioner.

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T. E. THOMSON & CO.

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FOR STRONG ROOMS.

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NORTHBROOK HOUSE, CALCUTTA.

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The largest showrooms, containing the most

EXTENSIVE STOCK IN INDIA,

New goods of every description have

JUST BEEN RECEIVED,

New Brocaded Silks and Satins

New Silk Velvets in all colors

New Silk Stockings in very choice

Patterns, Velvet Pile, Tapestry

And Brussels Carpets Repps

Damask cloths, Cur-

tains Tapestry Repps

Cornice Fringes

Mirrors in chaste

Gilded Frames

etc. etc. etc.

INSPECTION SOLICITED.

Our Furnishing Department is replete with a very
large and varied stock and we are prepared to under-
take Furnishing of every description and to supply
estimates for the same.

The Department is under the supervision of an ex-
perienced European and every care is taken to render
satisfaction and meet the wishes of our constituents.

F. W. BAKER & Co.,

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GOLD MEDAL FOR GLASS,—PARIS EXHIBITION 1878.

Manufacturers of Crystal and colored Glass Chandeliers, Candelabra and Wall Lights, Crystal Fountains,
Table Glass, &c.

Manufacturers and patentees of Kerosine and other Oil Lamps for use under the punkah in India.

Importers of Mirrors, Bronzes, Bohemian and other continental Glass-ware, porcelain services and porcelain
ornaments.

CHANDELIERS.

F. and C. Osler beg to call attention to the superb stock of Chandeliers, Candelabra, and Wall Lights now
arranged for sale in their show-rooms in Calcutta. They invite inspection. These goods are the Manufacture
of their own Firm, and in point of elegance of form, purity of colour, and richness of cutting, are of the very
best description. F. and C. Osler's stock is very large and they are prepared to undertake the lighting of
palaces of Indian noblemen with Chandeliers, burning candles, gas, or kerosine, at short notice and on favourable
terms.

Chandeliers in frosted and cutglass for candles, gas, or kerosine 3, 6, 8 and 12 lights.

Ditto in richly cut crystal Glass for Ditto from 3 to 60 lights.

Designs and prices given for Chandeliers of any size up to 500 lights.

Chandeliers burning kerosine, fitted with Osler's patent duplex burners, with illuminating power equal to 24
candles.

Colored Chandeliers in great variety 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 18, and 24, lights in ruby, amber, green or blue.

WALL LIGHTS.

Crystal or colored, for gas, candles, or kerosine, to Match Chandeliers

CANDELABRA.

In Crystal Glass 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, and 31 lights.

In ruby or green, 4 to 25 lights.

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Table Lamps in Crystal Glass fitted with Osler's patent duplex burners.

Hanging Lamps, handsome patterns, duplex burners Wall Lamps, new designs very elegant and attractive
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Venetian and other Mirrors, selected from designs in the Paris Exhibition.

Drawing room decorative ornaments in great variety.

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Calcutta.

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